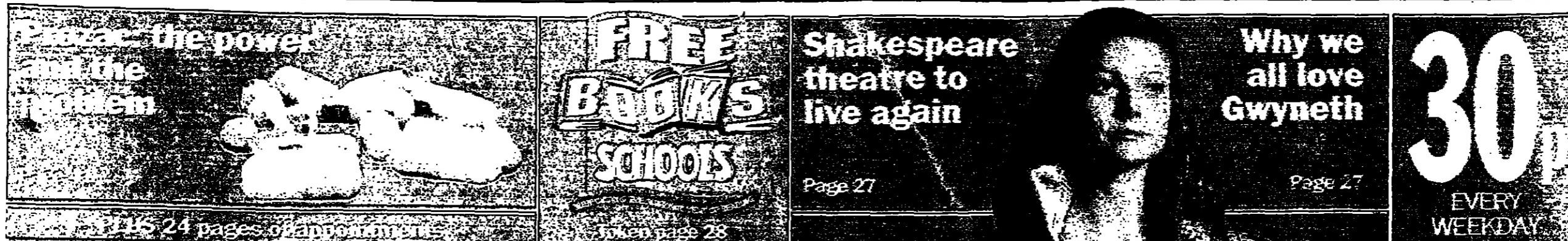


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IRA defector dies while walking dog

Murder puts Ulster peace under strain

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

REPUBLICANS were accused last night of murdering a prominent IRA defector who was found with severe head injuries minutes after he had apparently painted over graffiti predicting his death.

The body of Eamon Collins, an off-confessed IRA killer who exposed republican atrocities in the best-selling book *Killing Rage*, was found on a South Armagh country lane just before dawn.

Collins, 44, had gone for a walk with his spaniels shortly before dawn and was found dead at 6.15am. There was immediately intense speculation that he had been murdered by the IRA, and there were even unconfirmed reports that he had been severely beaten and then run over to make it look like an accident.

His death put the peace process under increased strain last night, as if IRA involvement were proved, it would be a blatant breach of the Good Friday peace accord and the provisions' own ceasefire. It would also mark a dramatic es-



Collins: he knew that his life was in danger

danger. He told the *Irish News* journalist Martin Anderson that he intended to pull out of the public eye. "He did sound genuinely concerned," Mr Anderson said.

Collins blamed the IRA for a hit-and-run attack that left him badly injured in 1997, and last September a house was destroyed by arson just before he was due to move in with his wife and four children.

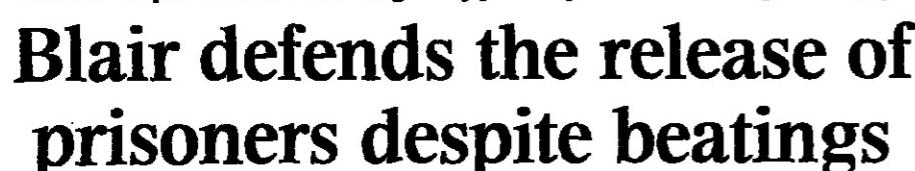
According to residents on the Barcroft Estate in Newry, Collins had only yesterday used black paint to cover up a large message on the gable end of a house reading: "Eamon Collins British Agent 1984 to 1999." A second piece of graffiti on an adjacent gable end had been changed from "Collins RUC Tatt (informer)" to "RUC out".

Collins had informed on his former IRA colleagues after his arrest for 50 terrorist crimes, including five murders, but he later retracted his confession. He was cleared by a Belfast court on the ground that the confession was inadmissible, but the same statements led to a number of other IRA men being convicted.

He was exiled by the IRA, but returned to South Armagh and repeatedly exposed the organisation's work in print, on television and in court: last year he gave evidence against Slab Murphy, the former IRA chief of staff, in Murphy's unsuccessful libel case against *The Sunday Times*.

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he doctored graffiti near Collins's Newry home. He is said to have painted over the message early yesterday



Blair defends the release of prisoners despite beatings

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE longstanding bipartisan approach to the Northern Ireland peace process was under strain last night after Tony Blair refused to bow to increasing pressure to stop the early release of terrorist prisoners.

During heated exchanges in the Commons, the Prime Minister repeatedly told William Hague that calling a halt to

the programme while punishment beatings continued would have "immense consequences" for the process.

Differences between the two main parties on the issue continued during a full-scale debate staged by the Opposition. By its end, the government policy of allowing releases to go on was backed by a majority of 202 – even though concerns about the beatings were voiced from all sides.

The clash earlier between Mr Blair and Mr Hague was the most serious since the Good Friday agreement last year. Mr Blair said that while he had legal authority to call a halt to releases, he could do so only if he made the judgment that the ceasefire was no longer holding. He admitted that it was "an imperfect process and imperfect peace", but said that was better than no peace at all.

But Mr Hague, rising five times to challenge the Prime Minister, said that paramilitaries must be held to blame for the beatings and insisted there was abundant evidence to justify putting the prisoner release programme on hold.

He told Mr Blair the "logical conclusion" of the Government's policy was that "every single terrorist could be released from prison without a single gun or bomb being given up and without an end to these mutinies". He raised the death of Eamon Collins as the temperature in the House rose.

Mr Blair pointed out that there had been punishment beatings during the ceasefire under the last Government but Labour had never wavered in its support of that

Government. He alleged that Mr Hague, whom he said was being dragged along by others in his party who did not wish the agreement well.

True bipartisanship was not about talking about it, he told Mr Hague. It was about delivering it: "I simply say to Tory MPs, when you were in government we gave you that agreement through the difficult as well as the easy times."

Downing Street said later that the government assessment, based on security and other advice, was that the ceasefire was intact. Of themselves, the beatings were not a breach of the ceasefire.

It also pointed out that during part of 1996 when there had also been a ceasefire, the then Conservative Government had decided beatings had not breached it.

The Downing Street spokesman added: "None of that is to minimise our disgust at what these people do."

Mr Hague said that he was raising the matter on behalf of the families of the victims. He told Mr Blair that acts of intimidation and violence were being carried out on people in this country and asked if Parliament was not the place to raise these matters "then what is the House of Commons for?"

Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, used parliamentary privilege to name Provisional IRA members he claimed were in a police dossier on the Kingsmill massacre, when ten protestants were shot by an armed gang, killers were walking the streets.

Debate, page 12



Three of the so-called Aden Five pleading their innocence at the opening of their trial yesterday. They claim they were tortured while under arrest

Muslim cleric's son arrested

FROM DANIEL MCGROarty
IN ADEN

The teenage son of a Muslim cleric suspected of masterminding terrorist operations from his London mosque was seized in Yemen yesterday.

Muhammad Kamil Musaphi and two other Britons were captured at what the Yemenis describe as a mountain-top terrorist training camp, shortly before five other Britons went on trial accused of plotting bombings in Aden.

That trial was told that Kamil's father, Abu Hamza –

who runs the extremist Supporters of Sharia group – had ordered the Christmas Day bombing of British targets in the port city.

Kamil, 17, who had been on the run since the police swooped on the other five on Christmas Eve, is alleged to have been a member of the

bombing gang, and is also being questioned about the kidnapping of 16 Western tourists which ended with the deaths of four of them.

After the arrest of the so-called Aden Five – who yesterday complained that they had been tortured while awaiting trial – Kamil and the other two Britons arrested yesterday are alleged to have fled to a camp run by Abu Hassan, the terrorist leader who has admitted abducting the Westerners on December 28.

Police were last night questioning Kamil in the capital, Sana'a, to see if he had any part in a kidnapping in which the only ransom demanded was the release of the five Britons described by Abu Hassan as "my guests".

Abu Hamza later admitted that he spoke to the kidnappers from his Finsbury Park mosque and the Yemeni au-

thorities are seeking his extradition from Britain. They believe that the recent spate of Islamic outrages were funded, planned and manned from London, and insist that there were links between the tourists' kidnapping and the alleged plot to bomb the British Consulate, an Anglican church, an international hotel and a night-club.

Kamil and the other two Britons – named as Shaz Nabi and Ayub Hussein – were arrested after troops surrounded the camp on Ar Batan mountain, 240 miles northeast of Aden. Security sources said that the camp was shelled overnight and that six suspected terrorists gave up without a fight. The three Britons could now appear in the dock with the Aden Five when their trial reopens on Saturday.

Defence lawyers had asked for two weeks to prepare their

rights had been abused and that they were being denied a fair trial. Relatives were told that they could see the men, but the Yemenis refused to let them be examined by a doctor the families have brought with them.

The Foreign Office confirmed last night that three Britons were among the latest wave of arrests, and said that British consular officials had asked for the "earliest possible" access to the men.

Torture claim, page 4

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INSIDE

US support for Jordan

Doctors are treating King Hussein of Jordan for a relapse of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. A statement from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, said he was "in a stable condition".

The king left Jordan abruptly on Tuesday after naming his 36-year-old son Abdullah as Crown Prince. The United States quickly showed its support. The Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will visit Amman today. Page 19

Senate rules on Lewinsky

Monica Lewinsky and two presidential advisers must testify in person before the Senate, senators insisted, after blocking an attempt to scrap the trial of President Clinton.

In a break with its tradition of "open government", the Senate plans to deploy a small team to question the three witnesses. Page 17

Plough-to-plate safety levy

A levy of £90 a year on nearly 500,000 food retail and catering premises was proposed yesterday to help to pay for a new food safety watchdog. The levy was the most controversial element in a draft Bill which will monitor safety from plough to plate. Page 11

Labour increases its poll lead

BY PETER RIDDELL

TONY BLAIR and Labour have maintained their commanding lead in the opinion polls over the faltering Tories, brushing aside the Christmas wobbles and infighting following the resignation from the Cabinet of Peter Mandelson.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* undertaken last weekend, shows that Labour's rating has improved over the past month to equal the highest level since autumn 1997, rising two points to 56 per cent. By contrast, the Tories have fallen back three points to 24 per cent, equal to the lowest level for 18 months since just after William Hague became party leader. The Liberal Democrats are two points up at 14 per cent over the month.

The poll will stir up the internal Tory argument about why the party is failing to capitalise on the Government's self-inflicted difficulties.

Labour is still being given

the benefit of the doubt even though the public is highly critical over "sleazey", worried about the state of the health service and is pessimistic about the economic outlook.

More than half the public (52 per cent) believes the Government has not upheld high standards in public life, while only just over a third (35 per cent) believe it has. This is an almost exact reversal of the position in November 1997 when 55 per cent thought the Government was then upholding high standards in public life, while 28 per cent believed it was not.

At the same time, the number of people regarding the NHS as among the most important issues facing Britain today has jumped from 34 to 49 per cent over the past month.

The MORI economic optimism index, measuring the balance of those who think that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, remains negative. But following further falls in interest rates, the index has improved to minus 23 points this month compared with minus 30 points in mid-December.

The public still has faith in Mr Blair and the Government and continues to prefer Labour over the Tories by a big margin. Mr Blair continues

Continued on page 2, col 1

Paisley plays havoc with reporters' volume control

GRAVE though the impact may be outside the Chamber of Ian Paisley's speech yesterday naming suspects, this sketch was disturbed by its impact on unfortunate *Hansard* reporters in the gallery. Tiny loudspeakers are plugged into their ears.

Speaking quietly, Paisley had the reporters turning up their volume knobs. Then, every fifth word or so, he suddenly yelled. Reporters kept rocking from their seats, faces contorted in pain.

By then, Teresa Gorman (C. Billericay), had left. It had not

been her finest afternoon. It is so important not to confuse Britain's leading trade union with Billericay's favourite cocktail.

The brassy but bright lady from Essex had arrived at Prime Minister's Questions armed with killer quotes critical of Tony Blair's Government. Mrs Gorman put these to the PM. The second quote was from the Transport and General.

Mrs G opted for acronyms. She muddled T&G with G&T. Dennis Skinner noisily con-

veyed her order to imaginary bar-staff.

Gorman lacks pomposity. Amused at her own gaffe, she re-phrased: "one of Britain's major trades unions". In the laughter, Blair had time to marshal a response.

A light moment in a sombre day. William Hague got his hooks into punishment beatings in Northern Ireland and wouldn't let go. Blair was indignant. Hague sounded sincere, forcing him onto the back foot.

Corned, Mr Blair twice defended his refusal to inter-

rupt prisoner-release by declaring that this would signal the end of the Good Friday Agreement. It would now.

Hague's claim that soon the Government would have no bargaining chips left did seem to resonate in the Chamber. Blair's charge that Hague was being arm-twisted by those who hated the Good Friday Agreement hit home too. Both

acterised his parliamentary performances.

His question (alleging false accounting in Government figures for pensioners' incomes) was thoughtful, unfussy and doggedly anchored in the lives of ordinary people. Ashdown habitually tries to wrench MPs gaze away from the party-political bear-pit.

But he showed no instinct for the jugular and lacked the nimbleness or stage-presence to press his charges home. This too is habitual. Offstage, Paddy Ashdown is not wooden: I have often suspected that

even after all these years he suffers from stage-fright.

Ashdown is at his best when relaxed. When he cannot be relaxed he is at his best when rehearsed. His prepared opening quip worked well. To the usual groans as he rose the outgoing Liberal Democrat leader declared "You'll miss me when I'm gone"! The humour was well-taken.

Still, six months remain of what are positively Mr Ashdown's last performances. One of those dreadful Wagnerian three-quarter hours which seem to last an age, la-

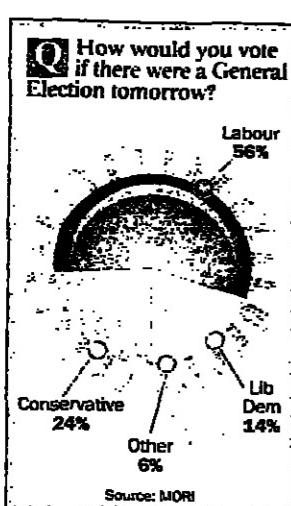
boring with tortured emphasis towards a much-postponed climax, is in store for us political theatregoers. It is set to last through three elections and until summer rings down the curtain.

No, yesterday was not the end. It was not even the beginning of the end. But it was, perhaps, the snuggling down with a choc-ice for the third interval before the curtain rises for the final act.

Lights dim. I have read and re-read the programme for the Lib Dems' *Der Meisterfuehrer* but I still don't get the plot.

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH



Dobson admits NHS morale has slumped

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANK DOBSON admitted yesterday that NHS morale is generally low, with a shortage of at least 9,000 nurses, problems in recruiting inner-city GPs and a danger of care standards falling.

The Health Secretary was giving evidence on staffing levels to the Commons Health Select Committee. He said: "The major issue is the recruitment of nurses. I know that we face a serious nursing shortage and we have had that shortage for several years but it is worse

now. In some places we also have a shortage of physiotherapists and midwives as well."

"Most of what we want to do to improve the NHS is dependent on getting more nurses," he said. Shortages were especially serious in London, Manchester and Liverpool.

He agreed that pay levels were at least in part to blame but said he was "pretty hopeful" that there would be a generous rise for nurses when the independent pay review body reports, probably next week.

The settlement, he said, would be affordable and he expected it to be paid in full.

He was now hoping to streamline the pay system for the future because the present settlement was based on what he believed were too many different grades of nurses, each with its own pay scale.

He wanted to work towards having three instead of six grades in the NHS. These could be called registered, advanced or specialist nurse practitioners.

"Under that system, nurses would be rewarded for the work they do and the responsibilities they carry rather than by the grade they are in," he said. Flexible working hours were also crucial if more were to be recruited or some of the 140,000 qualified nurses not working in the profession were to be lured back to the health service.

Mr Dobson admitted that another problem stopping recruitment was racism inside the NHS. "The treatment of black nursing and midwifery staff is a disgrace," he said.

Black people whose parents had worked as nurses in the NHS were put off following the same career because they knew how badly they had been treated.

THE Treasury made clear last night that the Government would not make extra cash available to fund public-sector pay awards. As Frank Dobson gave his strongest signal that junior nurses would get an 11 per cent pay rise next year.

Their pay increases, together with rises of 4.7 per cent for other nurses, will be published on Monday alongside settlements for other public-sector cash limits.

Treasury sticks to pay rise limits

BY ROLAND WATSON AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Treasury made clear last night that the Government would not make extra cash available to fund public-sector pay awards. As Frank Dobson gave his strongest signal that junior nurses would get an 11 per cent pay rise next year.

Their pay increases, together with rises of 4.7 per cent for other nurses, will be published on Monday alongside settlements for other public-sector cash limits.

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Steve Norman, left, and drummer John Keeble arriving at the High Court yesterday

Spandau Ballet argue over share of the gold

SPANDAU BALLET, the band that pioneered the New Romantic pop of the early 1980s, was locked in a bitter High Court battle yesterday over song royalties.

The creative force behind the band was Gary Kemp, but three other members claim that he reneged on an agreement to split publishing profits with them.

Tony Hadley, 37, the singer, John Keeble, 38, the drummer, and Steve Norman, 38, the lead guitarist, claim they are owed hundreds of thousands of pounds from royalty cheques paid into an account run by 39-year-old Mr Kemp.

The three have fallen on leaner times since the hugely successful group disbanded at the end of the decade and Gary Kemp, along with his brother, Martin, the fifth member of the band, went on to pursue film careers including their portrayals of Reggie and Ronnie Kray.

Gary Kemp, who wrote such hits as *True* and *Gold*, argues that there was never any verbal agreement and he gave up some of his songwriting



Tony Hadley, left, and Gary Kemp, who wrote the songs

royalties only to help to meet the cost of running the group.

He is so upset by the legal action that, before the case opened yesterday, he issued a statement through his solicitors saying it "besmirched the history of the band I was proud off. These songs were written by me as long as 20 years ago and only in the last 18 months has this claim been made."

Andrew Sudcliffe, for the three plaintiffs, described how, from the humble beginnings of a school band in

North London, Spandau Ballet went on to sell millions of records after establishing "something of a cult following among smart people with interesting haircuts".

Their earnings were split equally between the band members and their manager, Steve Dagger. The plaintiffs say that they were told by both Kemp and Mr Dagger that the songwriter would receive half the royalties and that all members of the band would receive the other half. The hearing continues.

Bishop in private
The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, the Most Reverend John Ward, 70, has cancelled all his public duties after his arrest over allegations that he sexually assaulted a young girl nearly 40 years ago. He denies the allegations.

COLombia Earthquake Appeal

Complete devastation in just 15 seconds

In less than a minute the earthquake in Colombia destroyed almost 60% of the city of Armenia, killing thousands, with countless more trapped in collapsed buildings.

This catastrophe has left over 100,000 homeless, many from the poorest neighbourhoods, leaving them with no shelter, food or water and Colombia has appealed urgently for relief funds.

Y Care International is part of the YMCA who have been active with the homeless in this country since 1973. We are there now minimising the suffering, not just in the cities, but in the many nearby villages and we will be there for years to come.

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RACHAEL HARRISON

Diamond's husband is fined £1,200 and banned

Hollingsworth says row with girlfriend ended his marriage, reports Claudia Joseph

The showbusiness agent husband of Anne Diamond was fined and banned from driving yesterday after a court was told of a violent row with a former girlfriend at a Halloween party that led to a night in the cells.

After the hearing, Mike Hollingsworth, who was left with a black eye from the row with Harriet Scott, a radio disc jockey, said it also spelt the end of his marriage to the television presenter, Miss Diamond, is seeking a divorce.

Having been fined £1,200 and banned for a year after admitting failing to provide a breath test, Hollingsworth said: "I'm glad that the court finally got to hear what the truth of the matter was."

"What happened was very sad and has cost me quite dearly. It dealt what was probably the final blow to my marriage and lost me somebody that I considered to be a very good friend who I was very fond of."

Reading magistrates were told that Hollingsworth, 52, lived with Miss Diamond and their four children in Oxford until they separated last year. On the night of Halloween he and Miss Scott, 26, had been

invited to a party hosted by one of her friends, and the couple had checked into the Holiday Inn in Caversham, Reading.

The evening had turned into a disaster when Miss Scott had accused Hollingsworth of flirting with other women and a violent row had ensued in which Miss Scott had tried to grab him round the throat and he had slapped her face.

Sasha Wass, for the defence, said: "During the course of the evening, things began to turn sour. The young lady in question became very angry and she accused Mr Hollingsworth of paying attention to other women."

"Her reactions were extreme. He decided to take her

outside to try and calm her down and avoid embarrassment of any sort. He was genuinely concerned about her."

"But outside, she became more extreme. She was hysterical. She began using physical force against my client. She hit him repeatedly and, at one stage, tried to grab him around the throat."

"Mr Hollingsworth was in a quandary as to how to deal with a person in such a hysterical state. One solution is you can try and slap them around the face to shock them into being calm. That is what Mr Hollingsworth did. It had the desired effect for some time."

Miss Wass told the court the couple were planning to return to their hotel when Miss Scott became agitated again, so he deliberated over whether to take her to hospital. In the end he had driven her to Reading police station where he had been arrested after refusing to take a breath test.

Ravi Sidhu, for the prosecution, told the court that Hollingsworth arrived at the police station at 2.25am on November 1 to seek advice and had another row with Miss Scott in the car park. He had been tak-

en into the police station where officers smelt alcohol on his breath and noted "his speech was slurred, his eyes were glazed and he was unsteady on his feet". However, Hollingsworth did not want to listen. "He was waving his arms in the air and mumbling that he hadn't driven and therefore would not provide a specimen of breath".

Police had finally decided that his behaviour amounted to a refusal to provide a breath

specimen and had locked him in the cells for the night.

Miss Wass claimed the police had misread the situation and blamed Hollingsworth's behaviour on concern for Miss Scott and frustration with the police. She said: "In a nutshell this is an offence that need never have been committed."

She told the court: "Mr Hollingsworth was genuinely fond of Miss Scott and in return she was keen on the publicity which went with the relationship."

"There have been numerous

articles in which she's been interviewed and she has described herself on radio. I understand, as Rocky, which you know is a prize fighter. She has achieved her 15 minutes of fame."

Last night Miss Scott denied she had provoked Hollingsworth into hitting her. She also said: "The implication is that I have achieved 15 minutes of fame appears to be that I have somehow gained from this experience. I believe this is

grossly unfair and feel deeply hurt by the accusation."

"I have stringently avoided discussing this matter in public and have indeed turned down numerous financial offers from newspapers and magazines to tell my side of the story."

Howard Davies, chairman of the bench, offered Hollingsworth the chance to reduce the ban by three months by taking a £250 course for offenders but he declined the offer.



The court was told that Mr Hollingsworth had not seen Harriet Scott, left, since the row that he said spelt the end of his marriage to Miss Diamond, right

Paramedics thought killer was play-acting after death of friend

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A KEEN amateur actor gave every sign of suffering from deep shock shortly after she is alleged to have bludgeoned and stabbed her lover's wife to death. Chester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Jenny Cupit, 24, a mother of two, roared backwards and forwards in her chair, sobbing between bouts of hysteria as she hauled out police officers of an armed intruder who broke into the house, shut her away,

and then killed her friend in the next room with a knife. But paramedics were convinced that Cupit, from Orford, near Warrington, was play-acting when, moments later, she appeared to collapse and faint as she was led out of the house to an ambulance.

One paramedic later expressed surprise that her vital signs, including heart rate, appeared normal so soon after she saw Kathryn Linaker, 34, a primary school deputy head, bleed to death at her home in Penketh, near Warrington. Kenneth Fellowes, an ambulance officer, said: "The young girl dropped to the floor: it was as if she was acting — it was done to prevent her from hurting herself as she fell."

The girl's eyes were closed, she was deliberately holding them shut. I said to get back on her feet and she got up and walked to the ambulance."

Earlier the jury was told that Mrs Linaker met her husband, Chris, a trainee computer consultant

and later Cupit and her husband, Nick, through the Warrrington Cenetary Operatic and Dramatic Society.

They became a regular "four-some" through their mutual interest, but the prosecution alleges that Cupit had been conducting an affair with the dead woman's husband for more than a year.

She is said to have urged Mr Linaker to leave his wife and run away with her to Canada. She was motivated by a deep envy of Mrs

Linaker's good looks, lifestyle, home and happy family, the court was told.

Cupit, a hairdresser, is alleged to have murdered Mrs Linaker in a fit of jealous rage last April, stabbing and bludgeoning her with a kitchen knife, a carving knife and a heavy glass bottle. She denies murder, but has pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. The plea is being contested by the Crown.

Cupit wept quietly as a recording

of the 999 call made by her mother-in-law was played. The jury heard the operator make repeated attempts to find out from Cupit whether the victim was still breathing. Finally Cupit tells the operator: "She is my best friend ... she's my best friend."

Police arrived to find Cupit apparently hysterical, screaming and "rocking back and forth". Her right hand had been cut and her jeans were heavily bloodstained.

John Hood, a police surgeon who examined Cupit in hospital, said he

found no signs that she was suffering any symptoms of mental illness. He said in a statement that Cupit told him that she had developed bulimia in 1995 soon after the birth of her youngest child and had taken Prozac for it.

He found blood on the left of her forehead, left cheek, right ear, the front of her neck and her forearm. He said the wound on her right hand was consistent with her hand slipping down the shaft of a knife onto the blade. The trial continues.

Chat with dad turns boys into better men

By MARK HENDERSON

FATHERS who devote time to their sons — even as little as five minutes a day — are giving them a far greater chance to grow up as confident adults, a parenting research project has found.

Boys who feel that their fathers devote time especially to them and talk about their worries, schoolwork and social lives almost all emerge as motivated and optimistic young men full of confidence and hope, according to results to be published next month.

The study, the latest from the Tomorrow's Men project supported by Oxford University and funded by Top Man, picked out youngsters with high self-esteem, happiness and confidence as successful "can-do kids", and looked in depth at their parental and social backgrounds. More than 1,500 boys aged 13 to 19 were surveyed.

"High-level fathering", it found, was much the most important factor in success. More than 90 per cent of boys who felt that their fathers spent quality time with them and took an active interest in their progress emerged in the "can-do" group.

By contrast, 72 per cent of those who felt that their fathers rarely or never did these things fell into the group with

the lowest levels of self-esteem and confidence, and were more likely to be depressed, to dislike school and to get into trouble with the police.

The raw amount of time spent with sons was not significant — what was important was the boy's perception. Adrienne Katt of the Tomorrow's Men project, said: "With some children, a five-minute chat at the end of a busy day can be terrific, and with others that's not enough. It is all about making the child feel wanted, loved and listened to."

The study found little difference between the positive effects of a good relationship with a father in a standard two-parent family, and with an absent father who nevertheless made the effort to make time for family. "Whatever the shape or form of a family, if you can get it together it makes a difference."

Among the "can-do" group, three-quarters said that they felt their parents listened to them, compared with 27 per cent in the low-esteem group; 63 per cent said that their parents were helpful; and 70 per cent said they were allowed to make their own decisions.

Families who spent significant amounts of time together as a unit were also more likely to turn out confident children.

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Student cashes in on magic card

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

A STUDENT trying to close his bank account yesterday instead found the perfect solution to clearing his overdraft — a cash card that left him empty three cash machines of £35,350.

Daniel Knox, a 22-year-old student of Spanish at Leeds University, ran out of pocket and had to stuff the money into a carrier bag with his overwieght library books as the notes kept pouring out.

The magic card started its work as he met to withdraw £500 from a Barclays branch in the city. On taking out the fourth batch of £100, he realised some

thing was amiss. "It just wouldn't stop throwing money at me," he said.

The first few times I pressed the £100 button but quickly realised it was bottomless and started on the £200 option. It ran out of £10 notes and then ran out of twenties, so I went to the Midland bank around the corner. Two cash machines in the bank there also suc-

ceeded to open the account with Tribanco, the state-owned bank of Panama, while spending a year there as part of his course. The card was given to him by Tribanco.

Finally, worried that a team of Central American debt-collectors might soon be on their way to Leeds, Mr Knox decided to telephone the head office in Panama to alert them to the error.

"They seemed completely nonplussed and said they would ring me back," he said. Tribanco said they were unable to comment until they had completed their inquiries.

Guilty trainer fights to keep beaten monkey

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

MARY CHIPPERFIELD left court yesterday with her reputation as an animal trainer in tatters after she was found guilty of hitting a baby chimpanzee with a riding crop and kicking it. Her husband, Roger Cawley, was found guilty of cruelty to a sick elephant.

It was the first time a member of the Chipperfield circus family had been convicted of cruelty, despite many allegations by animal rights campaigners over the years.

As she left the court in Andover, Hampshire, flanked by police officers, Chipperfield smiled defiantly as supporters of the Animal Defenders charity, which had instigated the prosecution, shouted abuse.

Cawley, 64, a government zoo inspector, was convicted for applying a whip and stick to the elephant's body, which was covered in open sores. Both were acquitted of charges relating to the neglect of other animals, including camels



Trudi the chimpanzee at Monkey World in Dorset

ownership to the police to prevent the animal being removed from its new home at Monkey World in Dorset.

He expressed concern that Chipperfield, who was found guilty of 12 charges of cruelty, had said 'on oath' that she would do the same again.

Anne Rafferty, QC, for Chipperfield, who was charged under her married name, Mary Cawley, said her client could not be disqualified from having Trudi back as she did not own the animal: it was owned by Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd, of which Chipperfield was a director. Because the company had not been convicted, it could not be stopped in law from reclaiming the chimpanzee and returning it to Chipperfield's care at the farm.

Roger House, the stipendiary magistrate, adjourned sentence on the Cawleys until April 9, at Aldershot, to ascertain whether he could stop her taking Trudi back.

In finding the couple guilty

of 12 charges out of 28, Mr

House said that the Cawleys were not guilty of gratuitous cruelty. "It was not cruelty for the sake of it. It was a means to an end." However, any reasonable person would judge that they still cruelly inflicted unnecessary suffering.

Jan Creamer, a director of

the London-based Animal Defenders, said after the case that she was pleased the couple had been convicted but disappointed that Trudi might have to go back. "It is the first prosecution of a Chipperfield," she said. "It's a start."

The circus dynasty, which goes back seven generations,

has been criticised for years. But it was not until activists from Animal Defenders infiltrated Mary Chipperfield's training quarters near Stockbridge, and produced hours of video evidence, that a successful prosecution was brought. Chipperfield and her husband had moved to Stockbridge, and semi-retirement, in 1993. There she concentrated on dealing, training only when asked specifically for help. Introduced to the ring by her famous father, Jimmy, when she was ten, she claimed she was being victimised by the campaigners and the media because of who she was.

TEENAGE soldiers were made to dance the conga naked as part of a barrack-room initiation, a court martial was told yesterday.

Three recruits were ordered from their beds in the middle of the night and forced to strip a few weeks into their basic training with the Royal Green Jackets. One of the alleged victims said: "I was scared and disgusted. We were jumping around and kicking our legs in the air."

The court was told that the initiation ceremony was directed by Riflemen Jason Puzey, 27, and Mark Dacey, 22, at the infantry regiment's training camp on Salisbury Plain. First they were woken and their heads were shaved. Hours later they were roused again and ordered into an adjoining barracks room where they were made to strip and dance the conga in front of laughing soldiers from their unit.

One recruit was so disturbed by the experience that he fled from the barracks and was too scared to return for an hour. He said that he had feared for his safety when his head was shaved. "I have been trying to forget it," he said.

Riflemen Puzey and Riflemen Dacey, who serve with the regiment's 1st Battalion based at Bulford, Wiltshire, are accused of ten charges of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

The pair face one joint charge of conduct of an indecent kind for rubbing a stick across the chest and inner thighs of a young soldier.

The court martial continues.



Chipperfield leaving court yesterday to shouts of abuse from members of the charity Animal Defenders

Globe director says sorry for stealing role of Cleopatra

BY DALYA ALPERE

MARK RYLANC, who is to play Cleopatra this summer in one of three new Shakespeare productions at the Globe with all-male casts, apologised yesterday for depriving actresses of their roles.

The theatre's artistic director pointed out that female roles were

taken by men and boys in Shakespeare's time; the Globe collaborates with scholars to recreate as accurately as possible the way they were originally staged. He added that playing Cleopatra would present him with "a challenge".

Rylance, 39, is still working on just how to play the part but his performance will depend on speech.

gracefulness, "and the ability of the audience to imagine". Impressed by Fiona Shaw's Richard II, he is also exploring whether to redress the balance with an all-woman cast for other plays.

As well as *Antony and Cleopatra*, the other all-male Shakespeare productions in the new season — May 13 to September 26 — are *Julius Caesar*,

Richard III for which the Globe is exploring the "vexed question" of whether it would have been staged in Roman or Elizabethan costume; and *The Comedy of Errors*.

They are still casting. Rylance has yet to find his Antony. "I hope to find a consenting adult over the age of 16," he joked.

Rylance said that drama was a

"collaborative exercise" and that "directors in the modern form have too much responsibility". The Globe will be sharing out those tasks, appointing a Master of Plays and a Master of Verse to take charge of "developing our eloquence".

Discussing the success of previous seasons — with 98 per cent capacity for *The Merchant of Venice*

and 76 per cent for *As You Like It* — he spoke of how the audiences "teach you so much about a role ... rejecting what doesn't work".

While he spoke Henry V's lines last summer, a voice from the audience bellowed out: "Get on with it!"

"They were right," Rylance observed yesterday, "though I didn't relish it at the time."

The court martial continues.

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Irvine surrenders to 'no win, no fee' divorce critics

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has agreed to withdraw his plans for "no win, no fee" arrangements for divorcing couples who are fighting over property or money.

Lord Irvine of Lairg has bowed to the concerns of the Law Society and family lawyers, which said that such arrangements would undermine government policy to promote amicable divorce settlements.

The concession is the latest of several by the Lord Chancellor during the passage of his flagship Access to Justice Bill through the House of Lords.

Michael Mathews, president of the Law Society, said: "Conditional fee [no win, no fee] arrangements are totally unsuitable for divorce cases. The Lord Chancellor has sensibly reversed a government policy that would have led to increased acrimony and unnecessary legal battles in divorce cases."

He said that the Lord Chancellor had also conceded that not all

disputes involving money and property could be funded through "no win, no fee" arrangements.

Despite the change of heart, which was also urged by the Solicitors' Family Law Association, Lord Irvine is standing firm on the proposed withdrawal of legal aid for all personal injury claims. This would leave conditional fees as the only source of funding for most people with accident claims, the Law Society said.

Mr Mathews said he hoped that the Lord Chancellor would listen as carefully to concerns about conditional fees in personal injury cases as he had the issue of conditional fees and divorce.

Lord Irvine has acted swiftly to defuse opposition to his Bill, which paves the way for an overhaul of the legal system. He has surprised his critics by acceding to a series of demands for his powers to be curbed and for stronger safeguards to be written into the Bill

for the running of the proposed Community Legal Service and Criminal Defence Service which are to replace the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme.

The concessions are likely to ensure a swift passage of the Bill through Parliament.

As well as scrapping legal aid and setting up the two new services, the Bill lays the basis for publicly funded legal services to be provided through a system of contracts. □ Couples seeking a divorce will be able to find specialist legal help more easily under a scheme launched today by the Law Society. It is to publish a list of 4,000 solicitors who have a track record in family law and are committed to encouraging couples to resolve matrimonial disputes peacefully.

In 1997, 164,000 people filed for divorce. Most had no previous contact with a solicitor and were unaware that they usually specialise in particular areas of law.



Ted Hills: ordered to change at airport

Holiday boy was dressed to distress

A BOY aged 10 was arrested by Barbados airport officials after arriving for a holiday wearing camouflage clothing.

Ted Hills's outfit, bought from Marks & Spencer, broke a Canadian law that makes it illegal for all but the island's armed forces to wear camouflage kit.

His mother, Pat, said: "We got to customs and an airport police officer took us off to a room and told Ted to strip off. I told them he was not a terrorist and that he was only 10, but they said it was an offence to wear camouflage clothes on the island. Ted is soldier mad so I'm just glad that he didn't have his toy gun with him."

The family, from Heavily, Manchester, were allowed to continue their holiday after the boy had changed. "They let us keep the camouflage stuff as long as we promised not to take them out of the suitcase for the rest of the holiday," his mother said.

A spokesman for the Barbados tourist authority said: "It is against the law for anyone to wear camouflage clothes unless they are in the Barbados Defence Force. Tour operators should know that and inform holidaymakers beforehand."

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School music gets £180m change of tune

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A DECADE of decline in school music is set to end in many parts of England with the announcement yesterday of a £180 million initiative to train teachers and provide more instrumental tuition.

Free music lessons have disappeared from thousands of schools as local authorities and school governors diverted funding to other areas. Research suggests that £10 million a year has been lost, with the proportion of subsidised lessons dropping from 70 per cent to 40 per cent since 1993.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has announced his intention to ring-fence the government money allocated for school music. A joint initiative with the Culture Department will put another £150 million into school budgets over the next three years and add £30 million already committed to the new Youth Music Trust.

The trust, which has Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Elton John among its trustees, will make instruments available to children and help to fund after-school activities. Its funding will come from the National Lottery. Local authorities that

have preserved their music services will bid for a total of £30 million a year on top of their current music budgets. Others will have to find matching funding to gain access to £20 million a year to re-establish subsidised tuition.

Mr Blunkett said: "Years of underfunding have left some children without access to musical instruments or the tuition they desperately need to develop their talents."

Head teachers and music bodies welcomed the initiative but gave warning of potential problems with its implementation.

Some authorities have formed trusts to preserve central music services. Some complained that they would now be penalised.

Michael Wearne, who chairs the Federation of Music Services, said there was also a danger that hard-pressed local authorities would use the new money to replace, rather than increase, current spending.

"It's a bit like filling the bath from one end and leaving the plug hole open at the other. We will have to exert moral pressure to ensure that the money gets through because this is a wonderful opportunity."

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Police investigate more 'backdoor euthanasia'

FRESH allegations of "backdoor euthanasia" in Britain's hospitals are being investigated by police and health officials.

Inquiries have been launched into at least six deaths since *The Times* disclosed earlier this month that some doctors caring for elderly patients were "giving nature a helping hand". They were said to be withholding intravenous drips from dehydrated patients, often under sedation, allowing them to die.

In several of the new allegations, bereaved relatives maintain that the patients were not terminally ill; four involve hos-

pitals already named by *The Times*.

The latest claims take the number of known cases referred to detectives, health authorities and hospitals to nearly 60. Most involve individual cases but an investigation in Derby is looking into the deaths of 40 patients with dementia in a psychogeriatric ward at the Kingsway Hospital.

Three nurses have been suspended. The police file is expected to be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service in the summer after an inquiry was begun in November 1997, when junior nurses complained that food and water were being withdrawn from severely ill patients.

A number of relatives say that hospitals have made it clear that if they want to pursue a complaint, the coroner must be informed, which necessitates a distressing post-mortem examination of the body and a delay in funeral ar-

rangements. At their most vulnerable moment, they feel pressured into agreeing to death certificates that commonly deem death to be due to the underlying pathology, such as cancer or stroke, rather than dehydration.

As relatives' complaints about backdoor "mercy killing" increase, the British Medical Association is carrying out a huge consultation exercise on withholding and withdrawing fluids from patients in or-

der to establish firm guidelines. Michael Wilks, chairman of the BMA's ethics committee, said that the response suggested that patients with dementia and those who had had serious strokes were among patients not terminally ill who had had artificial hydration withdrawn.

The House of Lords has stated that cases of persistent vegetative state (PVS), such as that of Tony Bland, the Hillsborough stadium disaster victim, must be referred to the courts. But in other non-PVS cases, doctors are operating in a grey ethical area in which they are allowed to exercise their clinical judgment and act in what they believe to be the patient's best interests.

Dr Wilks said: "There may be cases where best interest judgments and full clinical assessments have not been adequate."

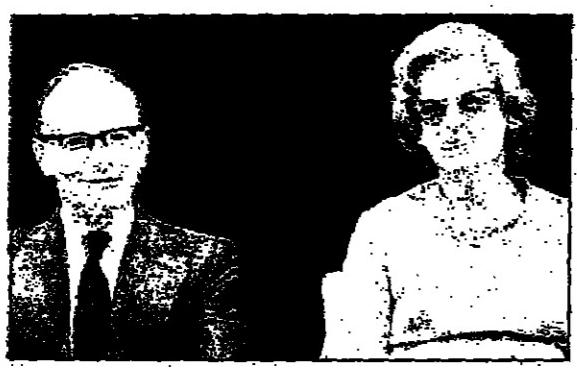
He advised doctors that decisions about withdrawing nutrition and hydration from patients who were not dying should be taken "only with great care and with legal advice".

Two of the fresh cases examined by *The Times* were at St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey, Surrey, where one disturbing case is already under consideration by the Crown Prosecution Service after an inquiry by detectives.

That case involves an 81-year-old woman admitted for treatment for constipation and a urinary infection whose condition deteriorated from dehydration until her death six days later in May 1997.

Dr Wilks said: "It appears to us that the law is so unclear that doctors would be well advised to have recourse to the courts before they withdraw hydration. I am speaking of patients with, say, advanced Alzheimer's or those who have had serious strokes. We feel doctors withholding nutrition or hydration are outside the law even though their intentions were no doubt made in the best interest of the patient as they saw it."

Grieving families seek answers



One of the fresh cases at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, involves the deaths of James Rowe, 81, a retired engineer, and his wife Doreen, 82, who died there two years apart. Their daughters, both nurses, are complaining about their treatment. Mrs Rowe, a mother of five, was put on a nasal-gastric tube but kept pulling it out and it was not replaced. During her first week in hospital her daughters had good contact with staff but, a week before she died, both sisters found staff suddenly distant. The two sisters pleaded in vain with them to replace the drip and, three days later, Mrs Rowe died. Her husband died from pneumonia two years later, on December 19, 1994. James Rowe was admitted to St Peter's after a neighbour found him distressed at home. A drip was found to have missed the vein and was not replaced. Three days later he had a fatal heart attack. Pat Taylor, one of his daughters, said: "We asked why he couldn't have a drip but nobody could give us an answer. He died thirsty. The whole thing was a nightmare." Both cases have been reported to police. A spokesman for the hospital said the incidents would be investigated.



Lilian Cook, 88, suffered a fall at home on May 13, 1998, and was visited by a doctor. Her daughter, Valerie Buckle, arrived to care for her and during the day Mrs Cook had an omelette and six cups of tea. When, however, Mrs Buckle realised that her mother's left arm was floppy, she again called the doctor and Mrs Cook was admitted to Eastbourne District General Hospital. She was found to have suffered a mild stroke that affected movement of the arm. The next day Mrs Buckle discovered a sign saying "nil by mouth" above her mother's bed. About 36 hours after admission Mrs Cook was given an intravenous drip but it caused swelling in her arm. The drip was removed and never replaced. Still complaining of thirst, Mrs Cook died three days later on May 19.

The family could not bear the thought of a post-mortem examination, and the cause of death was given as a stroke. Mrs Buckle, 65, says: "Maybe my mother would have died anyway but the hospital could have made her last few days a little more comfortable." She has asked the police to investigate. No comment was available from the hospital.



Lindsay Griffiths with her husband Karl MacAlpine. She is suing the Army for defamation

Army sued for Aids scare

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN is to sue the Army after she was named as an AIDS threat to 7,000 soldiers on a military base.

Lindsay Griffiths, 20, claims that she was harassed and victimised after senior army officers issued a public warning to troops at Catterick garrison, in North Yorkshire, that two local women were carrying the virus.

Personnel were urged to seek medical advice and undergo HIV tests.

Although the Army never named the women, gossip on the base pointed the finger at Ms Griffiths and a friend who lived in the village of Colburn.

close to Catterick. Neighbours claimed they had held drunken sex parties at the friend's council flat with squaddies queuing to get in.

The two women, who were both aged 19 at the time, strenuously denied the allegations and rumours.

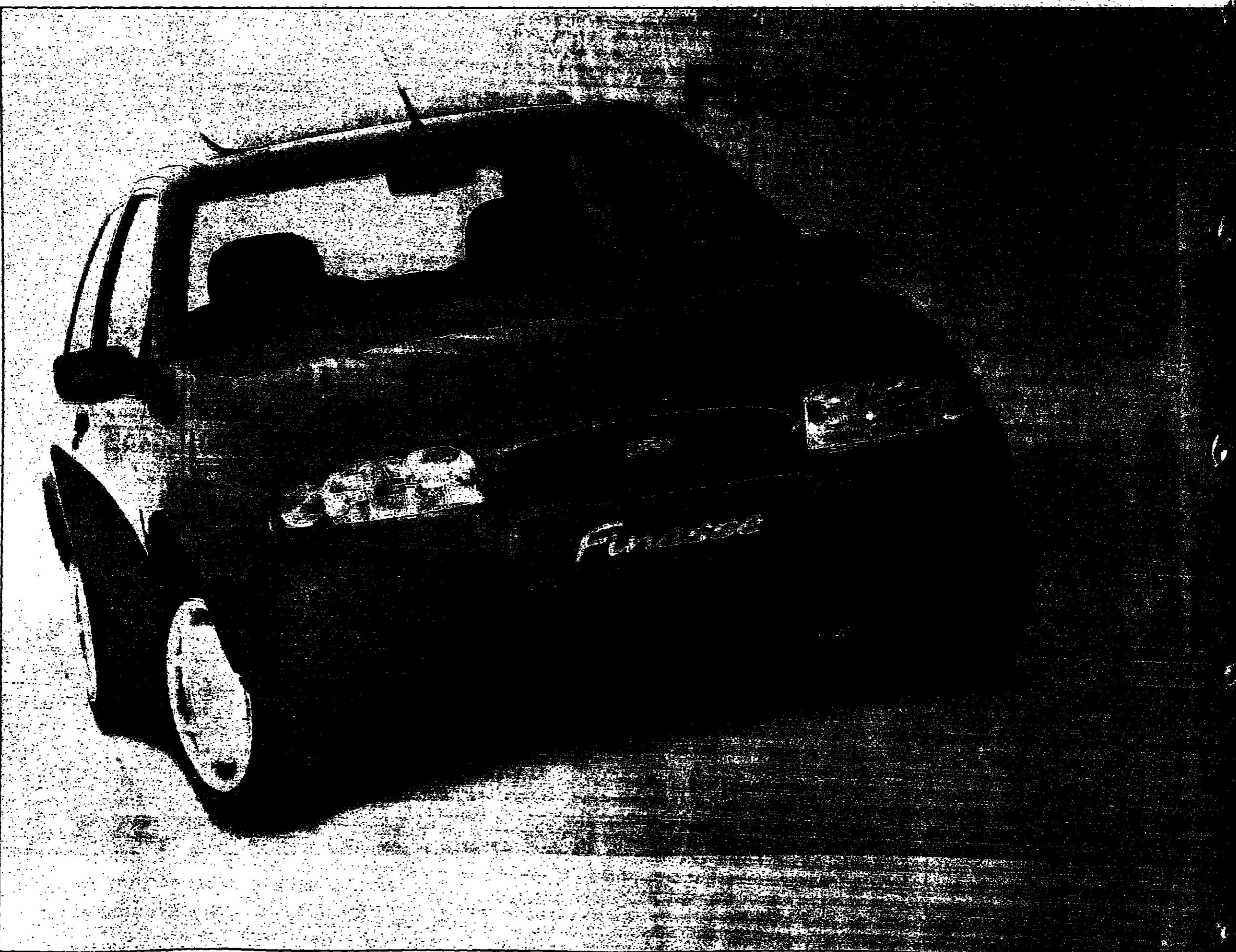
When army officials refused to confirm or deny if Ms Griffiths was one of the women whom soldiers were being warned about, she took an HIV test. The result was negative.

Yesterday John McArdle, her solicitor, said that Cherie Booth would be heading the legal team and that Ms Booth

was a very able Queen's Counsel. "She is synonymous with protecting individual rights and we are pleased to have her on our side representing Lindsay when we sue for damages for defamation."

Mr McArdle said a writ had been served on the MoD this week. The MoD had not yet indicated whether it would contest the claim. Yesterday the MoD refused to comment.

Ms Griffiths subsequently married Karl MacAlpine, 23, a soldier with the 1st Battalion The Highlanders, based at Catterick, who had stood by her during the controversy.



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Country set turn green with envy

Home fantasies are shifting further from the towns, says Rachel Kelly

THE dream of the moneyed country lover is shifting back to the green acres and privacy of the real countryside. But once there, they have no wish to farm nor to become the local squire.

This is because their dream lifestyle is now to work from home in a four-bedroom, three-reception Georgian house set in a couple of acres in the West Country, costing up to £500,000, with accommodation for live-in staff. And an Aga cooker, of course.

The glimpse into the fantasies at the higher end of the house market is provided by a survey by *Country Life* magazine, whose house adverts are the stuff of envy among many townies.

Their 1970s ideal was an Edwardian house in Surrey. In the 1980s, it was a small Palladian mansion in Wiltshire. A decade on, the dream has pushed into Somerset, Devon and East Anglia. One reason is that the country property market is now driven by people buying homes for their families, not their retirement, as the telecommunications revolution mean that careers such as marketing and PR can be pursued from home.

Buyers want the proper countryside as opposed to leafy suburbia, privacy as opposed to being high-profile "square of the manor" and staff accommodation as homes become more remote from cities.

The survey tracked 750 houses advertised in 1998 and compared them with an equivalent sample advertised in 1980 and 1990. The number of such high-profile advertisements is taken to demonstrate an awareness of what people really want. *Country Life's* deputy editor Michael Hall said: "This survey draws its authority from the fact that the advertisements reflect the way ideals and aspirations have evolved since the 1970s, from the dawn of the country house boom through the burgeoning



Is this the face to launch a thousand years? Davina Duckworth-Chad, 19, kicks off a competition to find a millennium girl with beauty and brains on *Country Life's* new website — www.countrylife.co.uk

confidence of the property market in the Thatcher decade, to an arguably more discreet and sophisticated market today."

The desire for real countryside was reflected in the gradual decline in the number of houses advertised from the commuter belts of Surrey, Berkshire and Kent. By 1990 this figure had declined to 21 per cent and by 1998, it had gone down to 15.5 per cent. The

Cotswolds was the dream location in the 1980s: advertising in Gloucestershire more than doubled between 1980 and 1990, in part because of the Prince of Wales' home in Highgrove and the Princess Royal's home at Gatcombe.

A decade on, the push continues west and east. Just 5 per cent of advertisements came from East Anglia in 1980, compared with 7 per cent in 1990. The desire for more sedentary comforts: houses are more likely to have saunas than billiard rooms.

William Gething, from the buyers agent Property Vision, said: "Privacy is at a premium. People are prepared to travel further to work and many are now working from home."



Dream home of the Nineties: a Georgian mansion in the West Country



Dream home of the Eighties: a Palladian mansion, ideally in Wiltshire



Dream home of the Seventies: an Edwardian house, preferably in Surrey

NEWS IN BRIEF

3,000 to leave jails with tags

Three thousand offenders would be released early from prison by Easter under the Government's new electronic tagging scheme, prison officials forecast yesterday. Eventually an estimated 30,000 to 35,000 prisoners sentenced for crimes ranging from theft to some violent crimes could be freed every year. Martin Narey, director-general designate of the service, denied that the scheme was intended to reduce prison populations and said tagging would help prisoners to make an effective transition back to life in the community.

Butler accused

Bernard Flannery, 40, butler to the Prince of Wales at St James's Palace, has been charged with drink-driving following a collision at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, moments after collecting a new £15,000 Ford Focus for the royal staff fleet.

Rector's appeal

Clifford Williams, 50, who was defrocked by the Church in Wales in 1997 for "scandalous conduct" by having a six-year affair with a married parishioner, lost his appeal to the Church's Synod of Bishops against his expulsion as Rector of Benllech, Anglesey.

Sinking funds

An 81-year-old artist sold his storyboards for the 1957 film *A Night to Remember*, about the *Titanic*, at three times their expected price. Robert Bell, from the Midlands, drew the pen and ink pictures for Pinewood Studios. They fetched £1,495 at a sale in London.

Football arson

The former head of then Division Three football club Doncaster Rovers was facing jail after he was found guilty of a plot to burn down the club's main stand. Ken Richardson was exposed when the former soldier he had recruited left a mobile phone at the scene.

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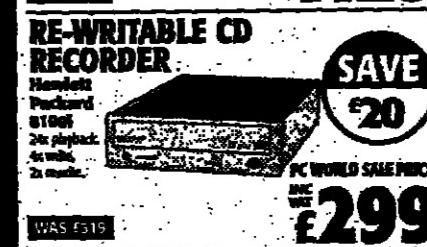
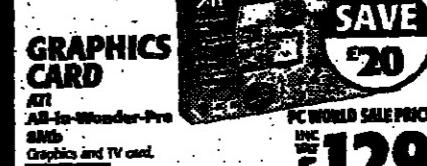
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Plough-to-plate food scrutiny will cost £120m

A FLAT-RATE levy of £90 a year nearly 500,000 food retail and catering premises was proposed by the Government yesterday to help to pay for a new food safety watchdog.

The levy was the most controversial element in a draft Bill for the establishment of a Food Standards Agency, which will monitor the safety of what Britain eats from plough to plate.

Retailers and farmers welcomed the principle of the agency but said that its independence would be undermined from the outset if it depended on food industry funding. Butchers, corner shops and other small businesses said it was unfair that they should be charged the same rate as supermarket chains and hotels.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, said that the levy proposals would be put out to consultation for two months and might be amended in the light of these discussions. "The food industry is being asked to fund the extra costs of setting up the agency, but most of the cost of protecting food safety will continue to be met from public funds," he said.

Mr Brown described the levy as modest, working out at £1.73 a week, roughly the cost

Farmers and shops fear levy will compromise agency's role, reports Michael Hornsby

through such bodies as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health. He hoped the Bill could become law by this autumn and the agency working by early next year.

The new body will have the power to advise ministers, recommend policy changes and draft some legislation. It will be free to make public its advice to ministers.

The agency will be headed by a chairman and about 12 independent members. It will be accountable to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and will have 500 staff transferred from Agriculture and Health.

The agency will share with the Health Department the task of advising the public on diet and nutrition and will be consulted on the health aspects of genetically-modified crops. One of its main functions will be to monitor the work of local authorities.

Graham Bidston of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, representing 3,000 independent butchers, said: "We support the agency in principle, but anything that is funded by the industry will not be credible in the eyes of the public."

George Bridges, page 22
Leading article, page 23

of one prepared sandwich. Local authorities would be given the task of collecting the levy and would be able to use some of the money to finance food safety enforcement through local environmental health officers.

There are 515,000 registered restaurants, hotels, shops, caterers and other outlets selling food to the public. But 25,000 of these will be exempt from the levy. It will raise an estimated £40 million a year for the agency's start-up costs and part of its £120 million annual budget; with the rest coming from general taxation. The levy will be reviewed after three years.

Mr Brown said that the agency would not involve extra public expenditure because the money would come out of the £20 million already being spent on food safety every year



A sandwich shop in Wandsworth, southwest London. Small food businesses say they will have to recoup the government levy by increasing prices

Corner shops protest at 'poll tax'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

EASIER administration appears to be the reason why the Government has chosen a flat-rate levy of £90 a year on food premises to pay for its new Food Standards Agency. Critics say the method is unfair, like the poll tax which the Tories tried to levy on property.

Harrods or a Tesco supermarket will pay the same as a village store, pub, corner shop or mobile hot dog vendor. Only very small food retailers, such as newsagents, will be exempt.

Asked yesterday how this could be reasonable, Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, replied: "Because the level of risk would be the same."

Ministry officials said that it was often in the small businesses where hygiene problems arose, rather than in super-

stores with sophisticated storage and chillers. As the levy is less than £2 per premises per week, it should be bearable for most businesses and should not lead to higher prices, the ministry said.

In a consultation paper, the Government said a flat-rate levy was the "most efficient and cost-effective" method of raising money to fund the agency. Grading it according to turnover, floorspace or number of staff "would add considerably to the complexity of the scheme and the administrative burden on businesses and local authorities".

Typical of the owners of smaller food premises who object is Constantine Metebes, 62, who owns a cafe in Wandsworth, southwest London: "It's all right for the supermarkets, they make millions so they can afford it, but it will ruin my

business. I will have to put up my prices and that will upset my customers."

The Government is proposing to exempt an estimated 25,000 shops, such as newsagents, which do not primarily sell food and deal only in wrapped confectionery, soft drinks and crisps. This will leave an estimated 490,000 premises to be charged, with the aim of raising £40 million in each of the first three years towards setting up and running the agency. It will have a budget of about £120 million a year.

Church and village halls used by voluntary or charitable organisations will be exempt, provided that no food except tea, sugar or similar dry products are stored there. Events such as Women's Institute lunches and village fêtes will be spared, but schools and hospitals must pay.

Relentless rise over 20 years

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

FOOD poisoning has shown a relentless rise over the past 20 years, with about 100,000 cases now reported each year, of which up to 20 are fatal.

The causes are complex, but most experts believe that lifestyle changes have played a big part as more and more people eat out or rely on ready-made foods.

Official figures mainly cover food poisoning reported by doctors and confirmed by laboratory analysis. It is thought that as many as a million people may suffer each year from unreported food-borne infection leading to diarrhoea or upset stomachs.

Reported cases of food poisoning in England and Wales rose from 14,253 in 1982 to an estimated 93,990 last year. In Scotland they rose from 2,700 to 9,241, and in Northern Ireland from about 100 to 1,300.

Americans come clean on how to avoid tummy trouble

THERE is less food poisoning in the United States than Britain, even in urban areas. Therein lies the clue to the spread in this country.

Americans are extremely hygienic cooks and would not dream of failing to wash their hands carefully after using the lavatory. Many outbreaks of food poisoning in Britain can be traced to the simple failure of a cooker to scrub their hands and enough to eradicate any lurking

organisms. Fingernails should be kept short.

At home, the refrigerator and cooking utensils are a common source of infection. Americans set a good example again. Their fridges are usually splendidly aseptic, with unopened cans and bottles gleaming beside well-wrapped food. In Britain, a raw bloody joint too often drips from a shelf onto food below.

There may be benefits from the

economy-conscious, non-throwaway society but hygiene is not one of them. If food is to be kept, it should not be allowed to stand in a warm kitchen, breeding bacteria for hours before it is refrigerated. Meat should be cooked through.

That may not prevent Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease but it will offer protection from E. coli and a host of other less lethal organisms. Eating steak tartare is the Russian roulette of the

dining room. The incidence of food poisoning continues to increase. Some cases are non-infectious and the result of a sensitivity to a food but that is comparatively rare. Attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are more likely to follow a visit to a restaurant, or a public function, than eating at home.

Food poisoning may be caused by bacteria or viruses. The common causes of food-borne infections in

this country are salmonella, staphylococcus, campylobacter and clostridium perfringens. There are also outbreaks of listeria and E. coli O157, which is particularly dangerous in the very old and young.

The truth is that most food poisoning is a result of eating faeces, either human or animal. It may come from the dirty hands of the cook or waiter, or from a badly butchered and inadequately cleaned joint. The

symptoms are well known: nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, headache, shivering and, if there has been too much fluid loss, collapse. Tests will usually confirm the diagnosis.

Most cases will clear up spontaneously but, if there is bleeding or a persistent temperature, antibiotic therapy will be helpful.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Tory MPs demand end to releases



Blair stood firm in face of pressure

By JAMES LANDALE
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TORY MPs yesterday demanded a halt to the further release of paramilitary prisoners until terrorist beatings, mutilations and shootings ended in Northern Ireland.

Opening an opposition day debate, Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said the attacks were increasing despite last year's Good Friday agreement.

He quoted statistics from the Families Against Intimidation and Terror, which recorded 158 acts of mutilations, beatings, intimidation and forced evictions this year alone. This compared to a total of 500 last year and 388 in 1997.

Mr Mackay attacked the "evil men" from both republican and loyalist groups who carried out the beatings.

"Those who are responsible for these evil, nauseating acts are the same people who signed the Good Friday agreement. The essential part of the agreement was the renunciation of violence in all its forms. It is absolutely clear that the ceasefire is not holding and violence is continuing apace."

He added: "These are not punishment beatings. For my constituents, that sounds like a modest extension of neighbourhood watch. These are mutilations, they are beatings, they are deliberate."

Mr Mackay rejected claims that the victims of attacks were often drug dealers and paedophiles.

"More often, they are not. It cannot be right in a democracy for any group to take it upon themselves to be the po-

lice, the judge and the jury and then the executioner."

MPs were debating a Tory motion condemning the attacks and calling for a halt to prisoner releases.

Mr Mackay said: "My judgment is that it is far more likely that the beatings will stop if the terrorist prisoners are no longer released."

He insisted that the Government, under the provisions of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act, was able to halt the releases without undermining the entire peace agreement.

The victims of the attacks were rarely from the middle-class part of Northern Ireland. "This has been the poor bloody infantry who have

helping the victims of paramilitary beatings."

But she insisted that the Tories were wrong to call for an end to releases. "Punishment assaults, beatings, shootings and mutilations have been an unacceptable feature of life in Northern Ireland for far too long. Northern Ireland has suffered from a crisis of confidence. Groups have been committed to violence to achieve their ends. This crisis of confidence has to be addressed. And that is what the Good Friday agreement is designed to do."

"By creating structures, we will give the communities the confidence to say no — once and for all — to the instigators and the vigilantes. The people of Northern Ireland are closer now to that than they have ever been. And that is what we risk losing if we go down the route suggested by the Tories."

She rejected the Tory claims that the beatings implied that the ceasefire had been broken. "I do not believe... that if I rewrote the agreement, unilaterally stopping one part — prisoner releases — that the process would stay intact."

Ms Mowlam said she could only act if she had firm evidence of paramilitary involvement in the attacks.

"If I judge that any group's ceasefire is at an end, then I will stop the releases. That is not my judgment at present."

David Trimble, the First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly, insisted that

Ms Mowlam did not have to have evidence which was legally admissible in court before acting to halt releases. Ms Mowlam would have difficulty convincing anyone in Northern Ireland that she was not receiving intelligence indicating that paramilitary organisations were involved in acts of violence, he said.

The suggestion that the agreement would collapse if releases were stopped or slowed down would "chill the heart" of many people in the province. "That's quite an appalling state-of-affairs. Prisoner releases are part of the agreement, but they are part of the whole and that includes the end of violence."

'Prisoner releases are part of the Good Friday agreement'

He said that the Prime Minister's statement in the Commons yesterday implied that terrorist organisations can re-write the agreement at will and that these sort of beatings and killings can go on with impunity".

He said the terrorists were testing Ms Mowlam's resolve. "So far you haven't shown any resolve or willingness to tackle this situation. If you continue to allow them to push you around, the challenge that is going to come up and face us all in a month or two's time will be more difficult."

Seamus Mallon, the Deputy First Minister, said that if the motion was passed, "how then would the Secretary of State solve the problems of these type of brutalities? What then?"

Ending prisoner releases would scupper the agreement, he said. If the deal was swapped for a political vacuum, "we would throw away the keys to our future, to our peace, we would throw the keys to the leaders of the paramilitary groups".

Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbyshire NE) urged the Government to slow down releases in protest, but added: "It would be a problem saying they should be stopped entirely because it would be interpreted by some people as breaching the Belfast agreement."

Michael Mates, the former Tory Northern Ireland Minister, warned Ms Mowlam that as more prisoners were released, she was losing the last bargaining card to keep the agreement on track.

He said: "You are going to run out of options. All the prisoners will be out, not one bomb, not one bullet, not one gun will have been handed in. What are you going to do then?"

The Tory motion was defeated by 343 to 141, a majority of 202.



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Another shooting hours before Commons motion

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RеспUBLICAN paramilitaries carried out Northern Ireland's twelfth "punishment shooting" of the year just hours before the Conservatives called for an end to the release of terrorist prisoners in yesterday's House of Commons debate.

The paramilitaries dragged a 20-year-old man into a back-garden off a cul-de-sac in a bleak and cheerless post-war housing estate in Andersonstown, West Belfast, late on Tuesday night. They made the man lie down in the mud and shot him through both hands and his left ankle.

No group admits carrying out the attack but it was obvious from the IRA graffiti on the surrounding walls who controls the estate. Near a grocery was written "Not a bullet, not an ounce" and "free all Andersonstown's POWs".

The shooting was common-

THE BEATINGS

place, but its timing was evidently designed to send a message of defiance.

The shooting took place in the garden of two pensioners, Annie and Joseph Barr, whose back gate had been broken down in a recent spasm.

"I heard this terrible noise. I didn't realise it was a shooting. I looked out and there was something in the garden. I thought it was a dog or something," said Mrs Barr.

"When I opened the door I said — what's happening? What's going on? This man just said can you call an ambulance? While I was on the phone my husband went out and said he is going to bleed to death! He brought him out a towel and gave him a drink of water. It was terrible. I have not got over it yet."

Neither Mrs Barr nor anyone else approached by The Times on the estate dared speculate on who might have been responsible, even when asked directly if it was the IRA. But all said that they believed the man must have done something to deserve being shot.

"My immediate reaction is he must have done something," Mrs Barr said.

An elderly man who lived next door said: "I'm sure he's been up to no good. I don't agree with punishment attacks but something had to be done. The police don't bother."

A third man, walking home with his shopping, remarked:

"They don't get it for nothing."

"The shot man was stable in hospital yesterday. The attack brings to 39 the number of

shootings and beatings carried out by Republican and loyalist paramilitaries this year,

despite the ceasefire, the commitment of the paramilitaries

to exclusively peaceful means, and

Mo Mowlam's demand on Monday that the "barbaric"

attacks be halted.

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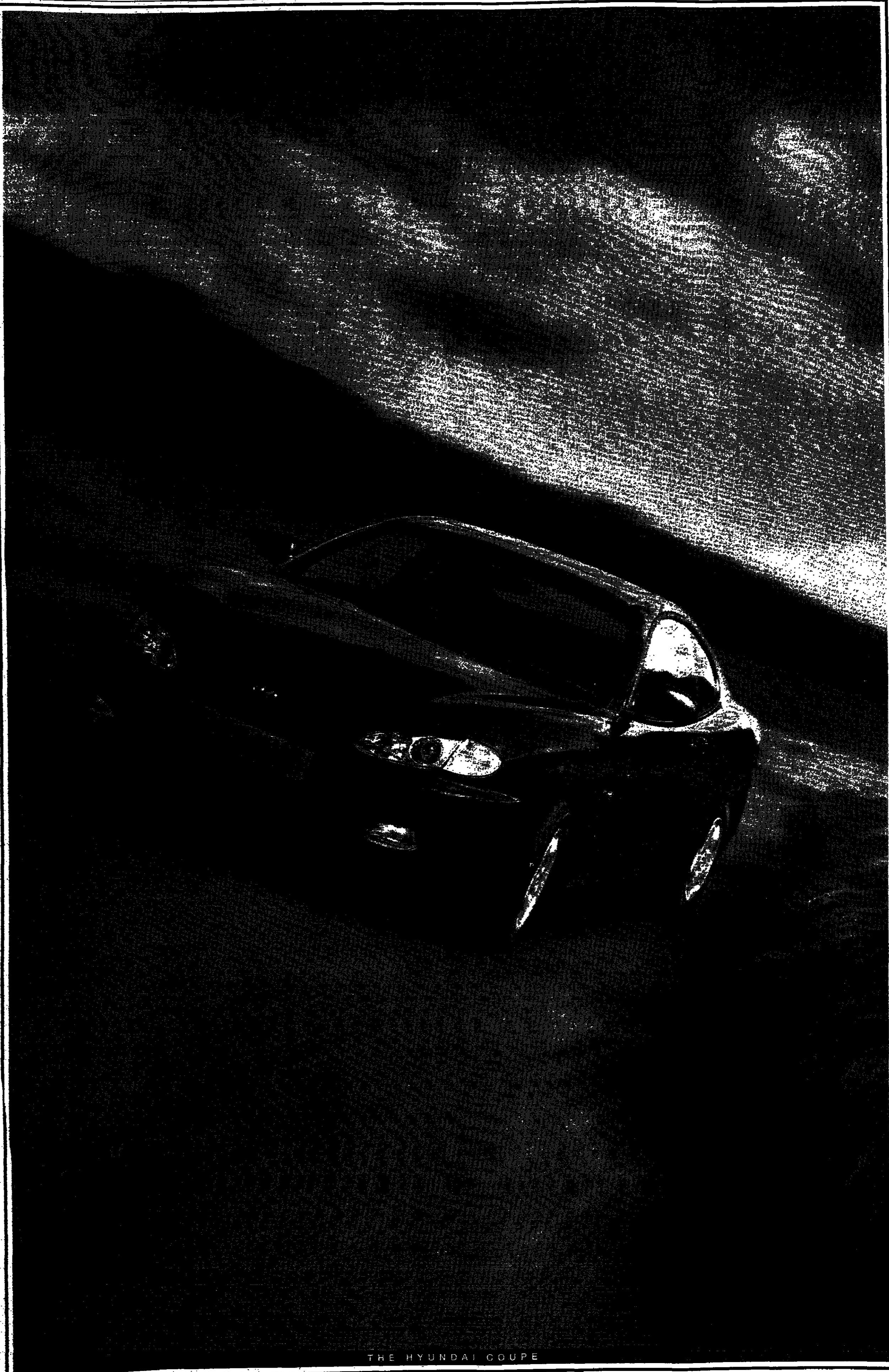
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Franco watches Juan Antonio Samaranch sworn in as a fascist Movimiento Nacional councillor in 1967

Fascist's rise to Olympic peak

A SINGLE photograph taken some 30 years ago speaks eloquently of the path followed by Juan Antonio Samaranch in his rise to the heights of an Olympic movement shown to be riddled with corruption.

The 1967 photograph depicts the President of the International Olympic Committee, then 46, dressed in the uniform of Spain's Falangist Party as he is sworn in as a member of the national council of General Franco's fascist-inspired Movimiento Nacional. It marks just one moment in an unstoppable rise as an apparatchik in General Franco's dictatorship.

It is also a moment conspicuously absent from the biographies of Señor Samaranch handed out from the Olympic headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. Yet it was this career as a servant of Franco that would propel him on to the Olympic committee and eventually, to its presidency.

Señor Samaranch began this career during the Spanish Civil War when he was drafted into the government forces fighting Franco's uprising. The young man deserted from his Red Cross unit and went

into hiding in his home city of Barcelona. His family claimed later that he had done undercover work for Franco's troops as they marched towards Catalonia. When Franco's forces took over in Barcelona, Señor Samaranch followed a double career as a politician and sports administrator inside the regime.

The smooth Catalan, whose wealthy family owned textile

mill, proved expert at the mixture of obeisance to the regime and political manoeuvring necessary to progress through the ranks. He got himself appointed first to the city council, then to the provincial council and eventually, to Franco's rubber-stamp parliament in Madrid.

He joined the Traditional Spanish Falangist Party in 1968, exhorted athletes to show "we Spaniards are becoming a more virile and potent race".

By the time Franco died and democracy came to Spain in 1975, he was the regime's boss in Barcelona and an IOC vice-president. He had also increased his personal wealth by, among other things, building ugly high-rise flats for immigrants on Barcelona's outskirts.

After the dictator's death,

protesters took to the city streets shouting: "Out with Sa-

marchan!" He was soon dispatched to Moscow to become Spain's Ambassador and, three years later, took over the IOC presidency. Six years after that Barcelona was awarded the 1992 Games.

Spain has been happy to draw a veil over Señor Samaranch's past. For many years

he was the most prominent Spaniard outside Spain and many, especially fellow Catalans, see him as a man who successfully made the transition from dictatorship to democracy. Shortly after those Games, King Juan Carlos awarded him the title of marquis. He likes to be referred to as "His Excellency".

He became enraged when a CBS television journalist started grilling him about his fascist days during last year's Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. He wanted the interview rerun, but CBS refused.

The incident helped to reveal that he had no regrets. "I said, 'I was with Franco. As well as 40 million Spaniards,'" he said, wrongly assuming that most Spaniards had supported the dictator. "I am very proud of my past and what I did for my country."

Charles Nderitu Mukora, who is also chairman of the National Olympic Committee of Kenya, was one of six IOC members advised last week by Juan Antonio Samaranch to resign following revelations of cash handouts from cities hoping to host the Games. Mr Mukora is alleged to have taken £20,000 from the authorities in Salt Lake City, which was awarded the 2002 Winter Games.

"I have never been party to any improper activities in my 40 years in sport," Mr Mukora said yesterday. "No incentive was requested nor given to me personally. I have not used the monies for personal purposes. I was an innocent victim of circumstances."

However, he did acknowledge that he had received money from Salt Lake City to fund his athletes' training camp in Nairobi on the slopes of Mt Kenya.

He also said that Kenya had been granted facilities for its athletes to train at the Australian Institute of Sport by Sydney, host of the 2000 Olympics.

"The only right thing for Charles to do is to call it quits," one Kenyan sports official said.

Scandal claims Kenyan victim

Nairobi: The Kenyan member of the International Olympic Committee resigned yesterday amid the continuing Olympic bribery scandal, but insisted that he was innocent of any wrongdoing and merely a victim of circumstances (Robin Lodge writes).

Charles Nderitu Mukora, who is also chairman of the National Olympic Committee of Kenya, was one of six IOC members advised last week by Juan Antonio Samaranch to resign following revelations of cash handouts from cities hoping to host the Games. Mr Mukora is alleged to have taken £20,000 from the authorities in Salt Lake City, which was awarded the 2002 Winter Games.

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'Dayton style' talks in Kosovo crisis

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

A NEW plan for resolving the crisis in Kosovo was emerging yesterday, with the six-nation Contact Group expected to order both sides to attend peace talks in a neutral European country.

The plan, which is likely to be announced in Paris tomorrow, will be backed by a strong warning from Nato today about the possibility of airstrikes if Belgrade continues to defy the international community over settling the political future of the Yugoslav province.

Washington's call for an ultimatum from Nato, effectively giving a countdown to military action, "continues to be firmly opposed by the European members of the alliance."

According to diplomatic sources, the only timetable to be imposed on the two sides in the Kosovo conflict will be given by the Contact Group, which will demand that negotiations must begin within a set period, possibly a week, and that the talks must also be concluded within a certain timetable, maybe ten days.

The sources said that if Belgrade refused to attend the negotiations, "that's when Nato will step in to make it clear that airstrikes could follow".

The talks would be in the style of the Dayton negotiations which ended the war in Bosnia, with the first discussions involving each side talking to mediators — and then face-to-face meetings to negotiate a detailed settlement.

The key mediators would be Christopher Hill, the American envoy whose plan for the future political status of Kosovo will be the basis for the talks, and Wolfgang Petritsch, the European Union envoy for the region. The Hill plan involves a large degree of self-government for Kosovo, but not independence.

The diplomatic sources said they expected Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the moderate ethnic Albanians in Kosovo to agree to attend the talks. It will be more difficult to persuade representatives from the Kosovo Liberation Army to take part. The KLA has been fighting for independence.

Dragobrili, Yugoslavia's government troops backed by tanks pounded ethnic Albanian strongholds along a strategic highway yesterday. The attack was launched shortly after dawn in an apparent attempt to push the KLA away from the main highway linking the province with the Yugoslav capital Belgrade.

Julie Scully, apparently the victim of jealous rage, had decided to return to America



Julie Scully, apparently the victim of jealous rage, had decided to return to America

Greek sailor 'beheaded and burnt' US model

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH
IN WASHINGTON

AN AMERICAN model who moved to Greece to marry a sailor she met on holiday has been found burnt and decapitated in a remote swamp. Her Greek boyfriend, who had gone on television to plead for information on her whereabouts, led police to her charred remains and has been charged with murder.

The torso of Julie Scully, known in her home state of New Jersey as a newspaper "Page 6" pin-up, was discovered in a suitcase outside the northern city of Kavala. Her head had apparently been cut off and tossed into the sea.

Ms Scully, 31, of Mansfield, New Jersey, moved to Kavala last month and planned to marry George Skiadopoulos, a petty officer seven years her junior whom she met on a Caribbean cruise. According to General Pavlos Roubis, head of Athens security police, Mr Skiadopoulos, 24, was "blinded

by his passion" when he strangled her on January 8 during an argument on a muddy farm road.

Mr Skiadopoulos, he added, was about to be drafted into the army and Ms Scully was preparing to return to America and her three-year-old daughter. According to the police Mr Skiadopoulos doused her with petrol and set

her on fire. He put her body in a suitcase, using a hacksaw to cut off her head so the body would fit inside. He then went to Athens and concocted a story about her disappearing after a row, before making a rambling confession.

Ms Scully met Mr Skiadopoulos when on the cruise with her successful husband, Tim Nist. The three became friends, but then she asked for a divorce. "For me the toughest part about it is that I wasn't there to protect her," Mr Nist said.

Ms Scully's mother, Julia, said that the Greek had been an "addiction" for her daughter. "I told her not to trust him. But she said 'mom, you read too many novels'."

But Ms Scully had reportedly told her family on January 6 that she missed her daughter. "She had been to visit her daughter and wanted to return to New Jersey."

In her divorce settlement she had received \$600,000 (£361,400), much of which she had taken with her to Greece.

Grandmother finds child given up for dead

FROM ANNA BLUNDY
IN MOSCOW

WHEN Nadezhda Pugayeva received a note from her son-in-law in 1990 saying "Mum! Me and Olga have had a son!" she could not have foreseen the eight years of anguish that were to follow.

Aleksandr and Olga Diguljew, diagnosed as fatally ill and hospital staff advised the young couple to give him up to a chil-

dren's home, since he would certainly die, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported yesterday.

Three days later the Diguljews were told that their son had died. But Mrs Pugayeva could never bring herself to believe it. "I always felt he was alive," she said.

Her hopes were confirmed late last year when by chance she came across a woman who had worked at the Zasviyatskii Home, not far from the town of Nizhni Novgorod.

where little Sergei had allegedly perished.

"I am sure I know a boy of that name," said the woman, and the search was on. Although Sergei had been moved three times since his birth, after a few telephone calls he was found alive and well in a nearby orphanage.

Mrs Pugayeva first went to visit her grandson without telling his mother. When she approached him and told him who he was, he burst into tears and shouted: "Granny!"

"I knew him immediately," she said. "He looks just like Sasha [his father]."

On November 10 last year Sergei was finally taken home by his proud parents eight years late.

It is still common to abandon sickly infants to the state in Russia, where 90 percent of children in orphanages have one or both parents still living. Often the defects that result in a child's institutionalisation are minor.

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Jordan palace tries to stifle talk of feud

AMID rumours of a possible abdication for health reasons by the absent King Hussein, his ruling family yesterday struggled to boost support for the inexperienced new Crown Prince Abdullah, 36, and to patch up palace feuds threatening Jordan's stability.

Despite government denials, resident diplomats confirmed that the armed forces were on alert in case of secession by neighbouring Syria or internal strife by Islamic extremists or disgruntled backers of the former Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal.

Jordanian officials added to the uncertainty that has seen more than \$200 million (£123 million) withdrawn from the kingdom in recent months by declaring themselves "very worried" about the 63-year-old monarch's failing health. One said that the King's condition had "deteriorated sharply".

The new prognosis has exacerbated anxiety among Jordan's 4.6 million people who have been given little to go on beyond the bare facts that the

Kingdom's rulers stage show of support for heir apparent, writes Christopher Walker in Amman

King was rushed back to the US for urgent cancer treatment on Tuesday.

"We are desperate to know the truth about his condition, but only the foreigners will tell us the others are all too frightened about how we may react," said a 46-year-old Amman shopkeeper who asked for her name not to be printed.

The official revealed that the King had been suffering from high fevers from the first day after he returned in triumph from a supposed six-month cure for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma over a week ago. His weakened condition could indicate an "infection" or a "reappearance of lymphoma which would be much more serious".

As government employees replaced portraits of Hassan with those of Abdullah, royal protocol officers were laying

on a huge show of support for the man they are sure will soon be Jordan's new ruler. Army and intelligence chiefs, foreign diplomats, politicians and members of the Government gathered in Amman's Raghdan Palace at 10am to pay their respects.

There was a moment of drama when the ailing Crown Prince Hassan, 31, portly and mustachioed, strode in about 30 minutes late. Under pressure to signal an end to the rift that has split the royal family, and still smarting from accusations by his brother the King that he had "abused power" in the six months of Hussein's absence, the Prince broke into the queue of dignitaries to offer his good wishes.

"Of course, he is not happy, and in shock at changes which he did not foresee," said an aide. "But he is not about to contest his brother's decision."



The new Crown Prince Abdullah, King Hussein's eldest son, reviewing a guard of honour in Amman yesterday

Iraq MPs call for revolts in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ courted further isolation in the Arab world yesterday when its rubber-stamp parliament urged the people of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to overthrow their leaders for supporting the British and American airstrikes on Iraq last month.

A statement issued after a two-day session of the 250-seat parliament said Iraq gave up hopes of support from Arab states when a recent meeting of the Arab League issued a resolution critical of Baghdad. Iraq would now focus on "Arab" masses who stood against the December aggression", it said.

The statement echoed the call from President Saddam Hussein for ordinary Arabs to topple governments that had close ties to Washington. It now gives him substantial support for his attempts to cow Saudi Arabia and Kuwait into withdrawing permission for US and British military bases on their territory.

The parliament also demanded compensation from both countries for "aggression" against Baghdad and urged Arab states to flout trade sanctions. But it resisted more inflammatory calls from some deputies to withdraw recognition of Kuwait.

The parliament's initiative against "hired regimes" in the Arab world came amid reports that Abu Nidal, one of the world's most feared terrorists, has been in Baghdad since early December and enjoys Saddam's protection.

There was speculation that the isolated and increasingly frustrated Iraqi leader might defect the Palestinian renegade, responsible for killing hundreds of people in the

1970s and 1980s, to revitalise his terrorist network to strike at Baghdad's enemies.

His presence in Iraq, if confirmed, would add yet another dangerous element to the increasingly unstable situation in the Gulf. In response to almost daily challenges, Washington disclosed that since Operation Desert Fox it had adopted a more aggressive policy to protect American and British aircraft policing Iraqi no-fly zones. It allows its pilots to retaliate against a wider range of Iraqi air defence sites if attacked and not simply those that pose the immediate threat.

Ba'athist insisted it would not be intimidated. "Iraq will continue to challenge with all its capabilities and means American and British planes which violate our air space," said Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's Vice-President.

Abu Nidal's organisation, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, was racked by bloody feuding in the early 1990s, but still has 200 to 300 followers who have remained active in recent years, particularly against Arab targets. Although responsible for the deaths of at least ten Britons, his group has not attacked British or US targets for a decade. Saddam has also generally shunned the use of terrorism abroad for more than a decade, ejecting Abu Nidal from Baghdad in 1983 when he needed Western support for his war against Iran.

"Abu Nidal's network is not what it was, but it could still cause problems in the Arab world and Europe if Saddam decides to pump money into it," said a Western source in Cairo.

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint by Mr Lionel Anthony

Summary of Adjudication

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has partly upheld a complaint from Mr Lionel Anthony of major or unfair treatment in an edition of the *Terry Wogan Show*, broadcast by Talk Radio on 29 July 1998. The programme featured a phone-in discussion about driving instructors. Mr Anthony, a driving instructor, telephoned to participate.

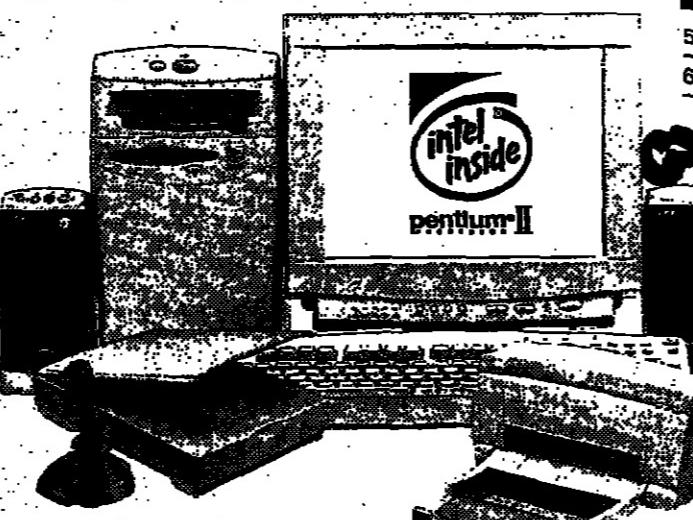
The Commission noted that Mr Anthony's contribution was unusually long for a programme of this type. It considered that he was afforded a reasonable opportunity to respond to Mr Boyd's statements and that he did so clearly, sensibly and with dignity. The Commission found no sufficient reason to which he was subjected was excessive. This was unfair in this respect.

However, the Commission noted that, unlike other complainants, Mr Anthony was insulted and abused by Mr Boyd. While recognising that the colour and confrontational nature of the programme was well-established and likely to be familiar to Mr Anthony, the level of aggression and personal abuse to which he was subjected was excessive. This was unfair.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

A full copy of the adjudication can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Strand, London, SW1P 2LS. A copy of the summary is available on the Commission's website at www.bsc.org.uk.

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Pill helps to prevent asthma



Dr Thomas Stuttaford
reports on a new asthma drug; eyedrops for glaucoma that reduce the need for surgery; pills to control cholesterol; and a breakthrough in the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, was in belligerent form when he presented the annual Prix Galien awards at the Stationer's Hall in London this week. These prizes are awarded to those companies within the pharmaceutical industry that have recently introduced the most useful and innovative products. The medication is expected to conform to that clichéd concept — a "breakthrough".

A second award is given for commendable pharmaceutical research and development. This was presented to Cambridge Antibody Technology Ltd in recognition of its unique libraries of human antibodies and, more specifically, for its work with a human antibody that may prevent scarring of the eye after surgery for retinal detachment and operative treatment of glaucoma.

It should not be only the Health Secretary who looks benignly at the pharmaceutical industry. The Chancellor of the Exchequer should also have been there smiling, even beaming. The pharmaceutical industry is second only to North Sea oil as an export earner for the UK. It pours £6 million a day into medical research. In the past 40 years newly introduced medicines have doubled the number of patients who can be treated in their own homes for 12 major diseases. This, as well as being advantageous for patients, saves the Exchequer £10 billion a year. Five of the world's current 20 leading modern medicines were discovered in the UK.

The winner of this year's Prix Galien award was Singulair, the first of a new class of drug, leukotriene receptor antagonists (LRTAs) for the treatment of asthma. When Singulair was introduced by Merck Sharp & Dohme in February 1998, there had been no comparable innovation in

the treatment of asthma for 25 years. Singulair is an add-on preparation, useful in the control of mild to moderate asthma, which is inadequately kept at bay by either inhaled corticosteroids or short-acting B₂-agonists such as Bricanyl or Seretide. It is combined with existing prophylactic anti-asthma medication and must not be used as a substitute. Singulair has no value in the treatment of an emergency attack. Its value lies in prevention, particularly of exercise-induced asthma. It is available in tablet form for adults, and in chewable tablets for children over six. The dose needs to be taken only once a day.

For ten years doctors have worked on

antagonists to counteract cysteinyl leukotrienes, formidable causes of inflammation in asthma. The leukotrienes are responsible for increased mucus production, they make mucus more sticky and therefore less mobile, and increase the swelling in the bronchial tubes which become narrowed during an attack of asthma. Further narrowing in the bronchial tubes is then induced by the inflammation, which causes contraction of their muscles and hence constriction, resulting in wheezing and gasping.

Asthma affects 3.4 million people in the UK every year. A statement last autumn from the National Asthma Campaign said that there are far too many emergency admissions to hospital with asthma attacks. The problem is not that the patient's condition did not warrant immediate admission but that with better prophylactic treatment many could have been prevented — in an appreciable proportion of these patients Singulair may now be part of that care.

Dr Martin Partridge, the chief medical adviser to the National Asthma Campaign, says: "The opportunity offered by



An incautious Western diet raises cholesterol, which can lead to a heart attack, but statins reduce the level

hospital admission, or emergency department attendance, to give people with asthma the information they need to control their own condition is often missed." He added that, with better communication, and clear spoken advice backed up by written instructions on agreed self-management, many more people with asthma would be able to take control of their condition and stay out of hospital.

EVERYONE who has had their eyes tested by an optometrist will have experienced a puff of air directed at the eyeball. This measures the pressure of the fluid within the eye and is a screening device to detect glaucoma. This pressure may be measured more accurately by applying the pressure-sensitive tip of a tonometer to the eye. Too high an intra-ocular pressure — the result of some obstruction to the free circulation of fluid between the posterior and anterior chambers of the eyeball — damages the optic nerve.

Medical, rather than surgical, treatment of glaucoma is dependent on the lowering of pressure within the eye. Beta-blocker eye drops are usually prescribed first, but there are other means of improving the circulation of the fluid, or of decreasing fluid production. David Broadway, a specialist in the treatment of glaucoma at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, says: "Our goal is to set an appropriate target pressure for any particular individual. Low target pressures are needed in severe or rapidly

progressive disease." A Prix Galien award was given to Xalatan (latanoprost), an innovative eye drop introduced by Pharmacia & Upjohn to treat glaucoma. It is the first topical prostaglandin to ease intra-ocular pressure by increasing fluid loss through the sclera (covering of the eyeball). The drops need to be applied only once a day. "New therapies are available which seem to be more potent and with fewer

side-effects than existing drops," says Mr Broadway. "They have reduced the need for surgery." Xalatan is already the second most commonly prescribed eye drop for glaucoma.

Glaucoma is the name given to a group of diseases of the eye that cause progressive damage to the optic nerve so that the patient's field of vision is reduced. If it is left untreated, tunnel vision — in

which the sufferer can see only any objects immediately ahead — and, later, blindness may supervene. An ophthalmologist not only needs to know the intra-ocular pressure but must assess the condition of the patient's optic nerve and test the visual field so that any minor loss may be spotted at an early stage.

Just to make diagnosis more confusing, glaucoma may occur with a normal intra-ocular pressure, as the optic nerve's susceptibility to pressure varies enormously. One sixth of patients with evidence of optic nerve damage from glaucoma have a "normal" pressure. Conversely, some people have a high pressure but an undamaged optic nerve and intact visual fields.

Early detection depends on regular ophthalmic testing. People with close relatives who have had glaucoma should be examined annually over the age of 30; others should be tested for it at least every two years from 40. If glaucoma is neglected in its early stages, its progress becomes more difficult to halt.



Too much pressure in the eyeball can indicate glaucoma

Alternative to eye surgery

MANY of the audience in the Stationer's Hall when the Prix Galien awards were distributed must have thought of King Hussein of Jordan when Mabthera (rituximab), produced by Roche, was announced as one of three runners-up to Singulair, which received the top award.

Mabthera represents a breakthrough in the treatment of relapsing, low-grade non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, from which King Hussein is suffering. It was developed as a response to the failure, in many cases, of traditional treatment with radiation and chemotherapy.

King Hussein is not alone in his troubles. In the UK, 12 people in 100,000 are diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's every year. The cancer, which strikes the lymphatic system, ranks seventh in the lethal league of cancers in the UK — 4,450 people die from it annually. The incidence is increasing

but no one knows why. Licensed only last June, Mabthera is the first monoclonal antibody prescribable for the treatment of any kind of cancer. It works in a different way to conventional chemotherapy by targeting specific cancer cells, and thereby activates the body's immune system to attack them and causes the malignant cells to self-destruct.

This targeted action enables an effective dose to be given, but at the same time avoids the more widespread adverse effects which are experienced when the toxicity is not confined to the malignant cells but affects the healthy ones, too. The usual side-effects of chemotherapy — hair loss,

nausea, vomiting, fatigue and weight loss — are therefore avoided. However, nothing is trouble-free: sometimes the patient suffers a fever, chills and rigors after their first dose.

With Mabthera, periods of remission in the disease are longer, and life during these periods of remission is of much better quality than when conventional drugs are used.

In early research, 87 per cent of patients treated responded, but it is too early to say how long this remission will last.

New drug fights cancer without side-effects

In the IBS Bulletin 22, published next week, researchers from Central Middlesex Hospital IBS Research Programme explain the breakthrough, how it works and its potential for IBS sufferers.

The IBS Bulletin is published by the IBS Research Appeal to raise funds for IBS research.

RACE TO HELP IBS SUFFERERS

American research has triggered a race to market a new drug that could benefit millions of IBS sufferers.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Day of disaster I will never forget

I cannot help but look in wonder at friends who claim to remember, in amazing detail, events that took place when they were toddlers. How could a five-year-old possibly remember that?

For I, who can instantly answer any old trivias you care to quiz me on, have almost no memories of my early years until some months after my eighth birthday.

As far as I can make out, my life began on May 31, 1970, even though my birth certificate states September 18, 1961. It was a Sunday, a sunny day of the sort when people laze around simply watching time go by. All traffic mysteriously disappears, the phone doesn't ring; even children sense that they will get no change from their parents if they disrupt this tranquillity.

I am thousands of miles from London, in a northern town in Peru. I am joined by my three brothers in the small study of our home, working through homework my father has set us, knowing there are better ways to spend a day such as this one. There must be friends to play with, footballs to be kicked, ice-cream to be licked. It is almost 3pm. If I hurry there may still be time before supper. The house is eerily quiet; my baby sister, born two weeks ago, is asleep in her cot, my mother resting beside her. In the kitchen the radio is silent, our housemaid enjoying a rare day of rest.

You see, all this I remember. The sounds, the colours, even the smells. I also recall the distant sound, like thunderclouds rolling in from the sea. I remember how quickly it seemed to move closer and closer, until it was above us, and all around us. Glass panels in windows began to vibrate. Books began tumbling from shelves and lights swung from ceilings. How four brothers looked at each other in fear.

My father came rushing through the house, followed by my mother. I remember him shouting for us to run outside, and I recall my mother's terrified stare. We followed, joining neighbours as they spilled into the street. The noise was deafening. I leant against a wall and was bounced off as it swung against me. It was my mother who remembered the baby; in our desperation to leave the house, we had left behind my new sister.

Officially, the earthquake left 66,000 Peruvians dead and 80,000 homeless. The country was ill-equipped to cope with disaster and tens of thousands were out of reach of the rescue services

remember seeing walls crumble, bricks and plaster crashing in the ground. Streetlights buckled and electricity cables sparked and splintered. Neighbouring houses seemed to come to life, dancing and swinging madly. The noise was deafening. I leant against a wall and was bounced off as it swung against me. It was my mother who remembered the baby; in our desperation to leave the house, we had left behind my new sister.

Soon after my father rejoined us, with baby in arms. It was all over. I remember choking on the thick clouds of dust rising from the road and, briefly, the silence, quickly interrupted by the wailing of the many women and children, myself included, who looked around in disbelief, unable yet to understand the enormity of what had taken place.

There were no deaths in our street nor in the immediate neighbourhood. There were no gaping cracks in the road. Despite collapsed walls and broken windows, our prospec-

tive housing estate emerged almost unscathed. We were the lucky ones.

Officially, the earthquake was responsible for the deaths of 66,000 and left another 80,000 without homes. But who knows how many of Peru's poorest inhabitants, living beyond the reach of government statistics, really died.

We lived less than 100 miles from the epicentre. Just two hours' drive from our home in Trujillo, more than 5,000 people died in one town alone. Residents of Yungay, at the foot of the Andes, were buried under a mass of ice and mud that crashed from the mountains. Roads and bridges were destroyed, leaving tens of thousands of Peruvians out of the reach of rescue services. An impoverished nation was ill-prepared to deal with a natural disaster on such a scale. Survivors used their bare hands in vain attempts to drag loved ones from the rubble. Weeks passed before contact could be made with isolated areas in the mountains.

During the next few days, small quakes followed as the earth settled. There was no electricity and no running water. At night my family gathered downstairs to sleep huddled together under a table, my father drawing from his experience as a child in Lon-

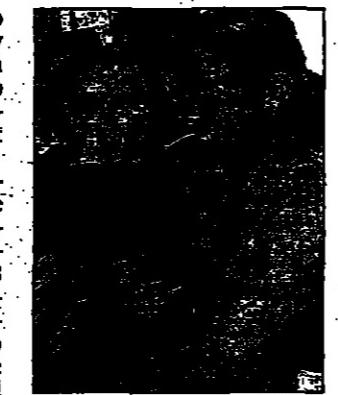
Home alone with Will

We made a sorry pair that day, sitting in Pizza Express as we waited for the locksmith.

Until my one-year-old son William and I got home from a weekend away to find I'd lost the door keys, I thought I had life as a single parent sussed. I thought that by a pure act of will I had turned myself into a strong, competent modern mother, coping bravely while my husband worked abroad for a few months.

I had hoped, as all parents do — including the teenage girls whom Jack Straw thinks should give up their babies — that, if I had to, I could look after my child alone. But as I distractingly passed William bits of tennetey dough for him to throw on the floor, I was forced to admit that this was much harder than I had dreamt.

You may think that being locked out has little to do with being a single parent. But when it happens to you and a tired, hungry child, and there is nowhere to turn, the effect is shattering. There is no one to



Lucy Hawking and William

all day, every day, alone, with never a minute to themselves.

It would be nice to think that as time went by I was getting better at it: effortlessly producing organic meals, working part-time, keeping the flat spotless and keeping up to date with current affairs while everyone said how marvellous I was. That didn't happen.

Each time I began to think that I knew how to cope with our lives, something would throw me entirely off balance again. After the key drama we both got flu. William is a feisty chap who weighs something near a ton, or so it felt as I hugged him off to the doctor's, where he was given antibiotics and I wasn't. At night, hearing him cough horribly tore me in two — or rather, into one part that selfishly wanted to stay in bed and be as ill as I felt, and another that demanded I get up and deal with him. I tried to kid myself that it was only a little while since he'd been ill enough for me to get up several times in the night every night and I should just try to reverse back to that era. The big problem with that idea was that I had so often used the old "It's your turn to go" line on a long-suffering husband that generally I never had any turns at all.

I tried having William in bed with me, but after he hit me on the head with his bottle and tried to stand up on my chest while I slept, I was soon fed up. And having been up all night, the next day was a write-

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- We have used the new rate when calculating payments from March 1999 under our annual instalment review scheme.
- This notice does not apply to new variable rate loans which started on or after 17 December 1998 as they are already on the new rate. In addition, it does not apply to borrowers whose mortgage rate is currently fixed, nor does it affect those borrowers with a capped-rate mortgage.

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Offer ends

Put out the birthday Bunting

Peter Stothard on the secret life of Our Man in Tehran

A few weeks ago the archivist of *The Times* sent around our annual list of our domestic anniversaries, the fortieth year of a football commentator, the seventy-fifth year of Letters to the Editor, the centenary of a once celebrated drama critic. Fifty years ago this week, the note revealed, was the first day on which the poet Basil Bunting began work as our correspondent in Tehran.

Bunting of *The Times*? It did not sound very likely. His name does not appear in the official history and ours is a paper which, from Thackeray to Graham Greene, has much prized its literary sons. Bunting was no mean poet. His most famous piece, *Brigflatts*, was "the finest long poem to have been produced in England since *Pearl Quarters*", according to Cyril Connolly. Surely, if he had been one of our staff, he should also have been one of our heroes?

He was perhaps the master of too many arts. As a classical student, I remember being encouraged to read his translations ("overdrafts" he called them) from Horace and Lucretius. He was a genius at adapting Latin sense to English rhythms. He was of refreshingly independent mind. His version of one of Catullus's miniature epics ended, after only 22 half-metres, with the assertion "and why Catullus bothered to write pages and pages of this drivel myself".

But there was also his critical campaigning for the music of Monteverdi, his scholarly love affair with the Lindisfarne gospel illustrations, his writings on Japan and old Persia, and *The Spoils*, a justly celebrated war poem which wanders from the desert to the dockyards of Rosyth with many strange and magnificent ways.

His archive file is slim. His first salary was £350 a year. He had ended the war as a British vice-consul in Istanbul and wrote with an easy supervisory authority about the threat from Mohammad Mosaddeq who in 1952 threw him out of the country. Like all correspondents of those days, the reports which he sent back to senior editors were better than the articles those editors chose to publish. There is a fine dry sketch of the Persian Queen Mother who "has always had an itch to interfere in politics". But it would be hard to detect a literary genius at work.

The most graphic detail concerns his departure. "Bunting arrived Baghdad post-expulsion expatriate accompanied wife and year-old daughter. Made difficult journey parcar via heaviest rainstorm... wife grilled, repeat grilled parpoles attempt force her upgave British nationality but she refused despite threat treat infant daughter as persian national prevent child leaving country cumpant".

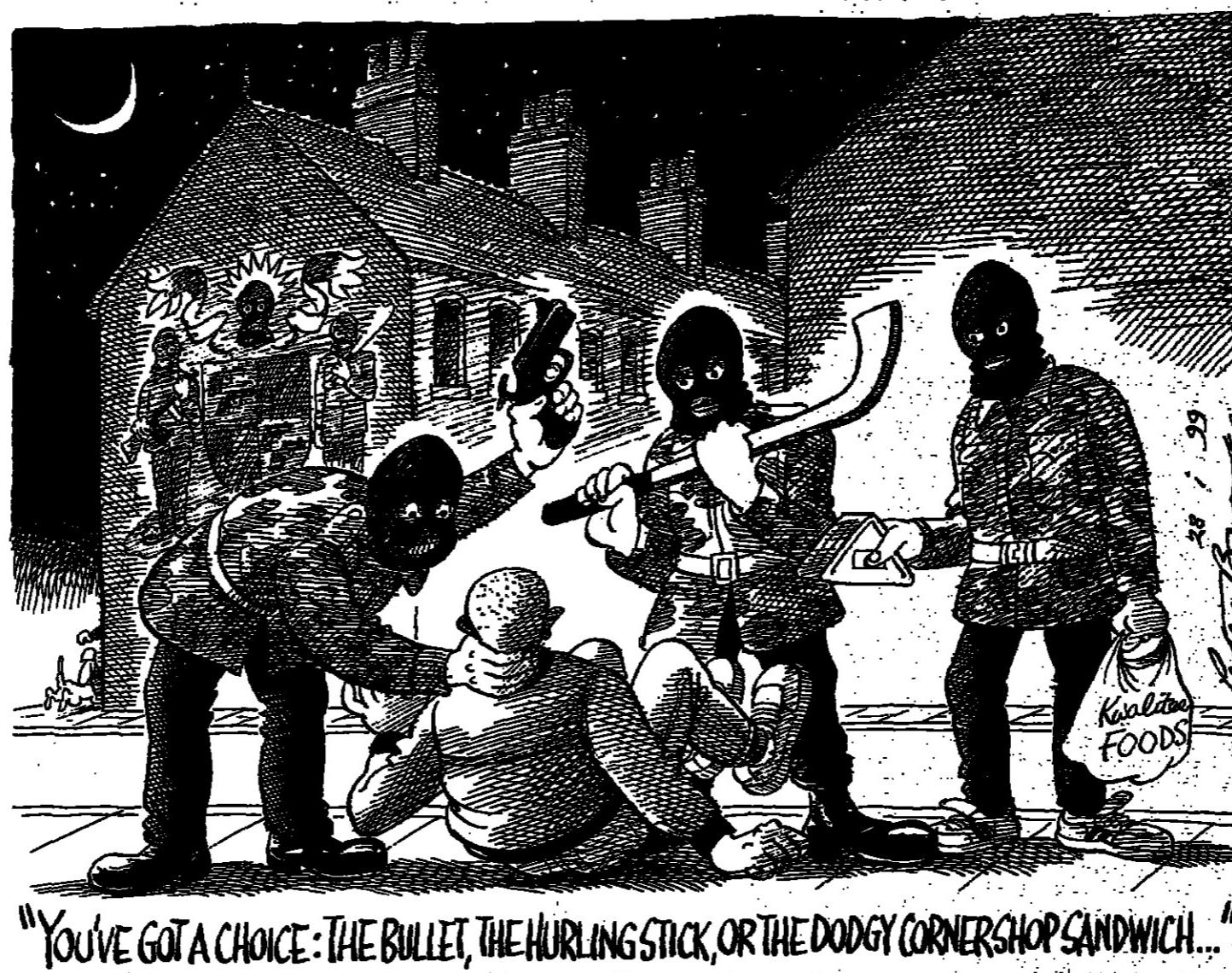
This sad story did not, however, have the impact that its author intended. The news editor of *The Times* had a crisp way with words himself: "we sympathise and regret no other vacancy abroad stop" came the reply from Printing House Square three days

He was perhaps the master of too many arts

tting, this is a joke against Colonel John Astor, the proprietor of *The Times*. The more likely butt of Bunting's bitter wit is Astor's son Hugh, a fellow foreign correspondent whose paychecks were more secure than the poet's own. According to the archive file, Bunting was still in correspondence with H.Astor in 1953, offering pungent advice on Persian affairs. But by 1965, the successful year of *Brigflatts* and an almost miraculous rebirth for the Beatles decade, Bunting could repay old slights with impunity.

W hy did Bunting join *The Times*? And why was he forced to leave? He used to claim a wartime career in spying for Britain, saying that with his antique literary Persian he could communicate with Bakhtiari tribesmen and keep them from the Nazi embrace. He had a lifelong passion for underage girls and, once he had done the decent thing by marrying one of them, he may have found even the stuffy Fifties more tolerant than the Foreign Office. Perhaps he used his journalism to continue his spying or perhaps as wartime rules were replaced by rules of peace, *The Times* thought he did and took appropriate evasive action. This secret life is the subject of Keith Aldritt's biography. It mostly remains a secret — even from the wonderful *Times* archive which records both the writers whom we like to remember and those whom we have preferred to forget.

The Poet as Spy, by Keith Aldritt (Aurum Press, £19.95).



Workshop of the world

British investors know our manufacturing industries could be global leaders again

I t may be hard to believe, after all the recent whingeing about the destruction of once-great industrial firms by an insensitive Government and a brutally overvalued currency, but Britain's manufacturing industries could soon become a source of good news.

This statement is not just based on the small, though very significant, improvement in this week's CBI industrial trends survey, or on yesterday's trade figures. Far more important than these short-term economic performance indicators has been the recent spate of corporate deals involving key British firms such as British Aerospace, BA-Amoco, General Electric Company, Vodafone, ZenecaAstra and LucasVarity. The significance of this activity for Britain's economic future — and for Britain's role in the world — could exceed such endlessly debated issues as the strength of sterling or the consequences of staying outside European economic and monetary union.

The merger between BAe and GEC-Marconi has attracted a good deal of public attention. But this has focused largely on the political implications, especially for Britain's relationship with Europe. It is said, for example, that Tony Blair is furious about the way that both the British firms have double-crossed their continental partners. When the merger was announced, BAe was deep in merger talks with Germany's leading defence contractor, DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (Dasa), while GEC was offering to sell Marconi to the French Government's defence electronics company, Thomson. By jilting their suitors, BAe and Marconi may have set back the cause of European industrial restructuring and even the political ambition to create a common European defence policy for years or even decades. That was the view last week from Manfred Bischoff, Dasa's chief executive, repeated by the French Government.

But instead of attacking perfidious Albion, the French and German authorities might have done better to consider why their deals fell apart. The French Government demanded that Thomson should hold 50 per cent of the shares in a joint venture with Marconi, even though Marconi would bring far more business and profits to the business than Thomson. The Paris Government also wanted the senior management of the joint venture to be entirely French.

On the contrary, Britain's investors, as well as some of the better industrial managers, seem to be developing a taste for bolder international strategies. In the record-breaking takeovers of AirTouch and Amoco, for example, British shareholders enthusiastically supported

the decisions of Vodafone and BP managers to issue vast numbers of new shares. A few years ago, such share issues might well have provoked accusations from shareholders that their interests were being diluted and that managers were engaged in pointless empire-building to the detriment of shareholder value. Even in the big takeover battle now preoccupying the City — the battle for LucasVarity — British shareholders seem willing to sell to American firms, but only on terms that are likely to leave them with majority control of the combined groups.

Of course, some of the recent City bids and deals may turn out to be unjustified. No doubt several will disappoint investors and some may produce industrial disasters. And in the long run it may be almost impossible for British companies to remain globally competitive in high-tech industries without more of the government support for research and development enjoyed by their rivals in Germany, France, Japan and the United States. But the newfound willingness of the City to back British industrial companies does not just stem from bull market euphoria or misplaced national pride. It is based on a serious assessment of economic realities — Britain is now a far more successful manufacturing country, especially in high-tech industries, than is generally recognised.

How many readers know, for example, that Vodafone's takeover of AirTouch will make Britain the home of the biggest telecommunications company outside the United States, with a market value exceeding that of Deutsche Telecom and France Telecom combined? Or that BAe's purchase of GEC-Marconi will create the world's third largest aerospace and defence company and the only such business of global significance outside America? Or that BP's takeover of Amoco will



Anatole Kaletsky

make Britain the main base for two of the world's top three energy companies? Or that, after the merger of Zeneca with Sweden's Astra, three of the world's top six pharmaceutical companies are based in Britain and have chosen to use the dollar, rather than the euro, as their unit of account?

Britain is still the home of more large industrial companies than any other European country (including Germany). Britain still exports a higher proportion of its gross domestic product than any other G7 country. And, most importantly, British firms are strongly represented in the industries of the future. As shown in the Government's recent *Competitiveness White Paper*, Britain has recently enjoyed unusually strong growth in high-technology exports. The share of high-tech exports in total exports has been higher in Britain than in France in four of the past five years and has consistently been much higher than in Germany or Italy throughout the past decade. Britain's overseas earnings from royalties and licence fees have been much higher than those of any other European country.

Such statistics conflict with the widespread impression that Britain is sliding inexorably down the world industrial league, towards a position where it will be able to compete only with relatively backward Asian countries on the basis of harsh working conditions and cheap labour. This *unjustified* doom has long been promoted in continental Europe by politicians anxious to resist pressures for what they see as British-style deregulation and in Britain by politicians anxious to promote what they see as European-style industrial interventionism.

But finally some British managers, with the backing of their institutional shareholders, seem to recognise the strength of their companies and they are trying to capitalise on this strength to secure positions of "global leadership" in industries of the future. The success or failure of these companies in making the quantum leap from operating on a national or European scale to running truly global businesses will have far more impact on Britain's industrial future than the troubles at Rover in Longbridge or another survey of hand-wringing from the CBI.

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'The public seem to expect their politicians to disinfect the nation's kitchen surfaces'

George Bridges

T he war against campylobacter, salmonella and new variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease is being fought with the most powerful weapon this Government can think of — a new quango. Yesterday saw the emergence of a hit squad to tackle the scourge of failing sandwiches, The Food Standards Agency. Yet there is an even greater peril to public safety than dodgy prawns. It is, of course, our baths.

Thirty-five people, aged between 15 and 64, died in 1996 from drowning in their tubs. Thirty-four died from food poisoning. If the Government is so worried about people's health and safety, surely Frank Dobson should consider a new BSE — a Bath Standards Executive? The bath chain, like the food chain, needs regulation. A £100 million budget, a levy on all bath and shower manufacturers and retail-

ers, a few hundred scientists, and Frank might be able to save thirty-five people. Who could possibly accuse him of pouring money down the plughole?

There is no appetite for a new BSE because the bath scare has yet to happen. The public think the risk from dying after eating a hamburger is greater than from taking to their tub. But imagine if a sudden spate of watery deaths caught the headlines. The clamour would arise that something should be done. And so the BSE would be born.

At the end of the second millennium, there remains a mistaken belief that science can and should be used to eliminate risk. Politicians and voters share the blame. People refuse to accept that freezers and microwave ovens, cook-chill meals and last-food joints are not just the symbols of an affluent society, but ideal homes for germs. They

believe that technology can banish all micro-organisms. When that fails, they expect politicians to disinfect the nation's kitchen surfaces.

According to Dr Barrie Craven of the University of Northumbria and Christine E. Johnson, the aim of politicians "should be not to eliminate the poisoning but to establish an environment that results in an acceptable level of food poisoning". Indeed, but try finding a Health Minister brave enough to go on the news and say that twenty deaths from food poisoning is an "acceptable" balance of risk. How much safer will spur the most recent expert advice, form a quango and draw up new regulations. The Food Standards Agency will be the apothecary of this nannyng mentality, strangling

risk of death by eating beef on the bone is one in a billion, compared to the one in ten million chance of being hit by lightning, you could file it under "fascinating but not really alarming". But in so doing, you stand accused of a cover-up. You can, of course, shift responsibility on to your political master. He will have to decide whether to keep things in proportion, but risk losing his job for covering matters up. Or he could spark a health scare.

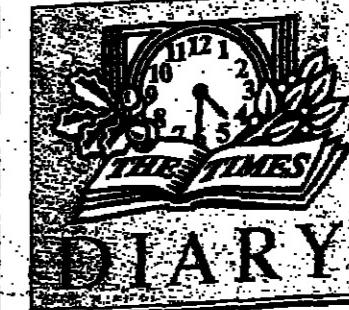
The theory underpinning this whole enterprise is weirdly familiar: scientists, experts and officials know more than consumers and politicians must act on their advice. But the reality is far messier. Imagine you were the scientist who discovered that anyone who eats beef on the bone might contract CJD. You have two options. Reasoning that the

experts are to be placed to terrify us all. Politicians don't dare to trust people. Nor do they have the courage to admit that, no matter how much, molly-coddling their quangos inflict on us, living is a risky business.

Perhaps we should spend all day lying in bed or in a chair. But even that is more dangerous than eating an egg. In one year, 83 people died falling out of their beds or off their seats.

Had ministers been braver, they would have taken a leaf out of the Book of Leviticus. Moses, the first food standards officer, had the right approach — tell people that God orders them to wash their hands before meals, and not to eat swine. If they didn't obey the Almighty, they would suffer from more than just a nippy tummy. But the choice was theirs.

george.bridges@the-times.co.uk



Don't call us

IT IS my sad duty to inform Sir Jocelyn Stevens that he is finished. The chairman of English Heritage has so offended John Prescott that he is not to be granted another term when the post comes up for renewal next year. The deputy PM thinks Stevens tried to force his hand by saying that an ambitious modernist ashtray near Tower Bridge designed by Sir Norman Foster was the only possible HQ for London's mayor. Awkwardly, Will Alsop then withdrew the only alternative. Gordon Brown resented being bounced into a decision, so Lord St John of Fawsley, head of the Royal Fine Art Commission, persuaded Alsop to revive his scheme. Ministers are unimpressed, however, by Steven's unsubtle insistence that Chris Smith is the "best Culture Secretary ever".

• I DROPPED by Brompton Oratory and knocked into Jennifer Paterson, jammed into a booth selling trinkets. One slab of the Fat Ladies, the TV cook looked coy, squeezed between rosaries, candles and recipes on how to achieve an after-life.

French leave

THE delightful dowager Lady Rothermere is to move to New York to take advantage of her green card. I am distressed to learn Maiko, pictured with her late husband who



she met in a winebar, was left a substantial wodge from the peer's personal fortune in Paris.

Sadly, France has diverted a large slice under its forced inheritance rules whereby two thirds go to the children — even though they have been well looked after in Britain. I am sure his family, compassionate sorts, will step in.

• PETER LILLEY, showing that he is a veteran of the gong ceremony circuit, on the Whitbread Book Awards: "A combination of lit. crit. and the Eurovision Song Contest."

Dosh for dirt

PECULIAR that eliciting a few tawdry marriage secrets can make a career. Take Martin Bashir, who interviewed the late Diana, Princess of Wales. I gather that the new *Sixty Minutes* dirt-digger is to be paid £500,000 over two years, a quarter of the reporting budget.

This has caused a frisson between two brothers in charge of ITV's current affairs programme, to be presented by Trevor McDonald, Steve Anderson, head of News and Current Affairs, and Jeff, editor of the new programme, are getting on swimmingly after Steve went over his brother's head to hire Bashir.



• A CHALLENGE to William Hague? Lord Feldman has thrown a dinner for Iain Duncan Smith, the thinking man's Lord Tebbit. As the former chairman of the National Union suggests an insurance policy against something "quite dreadful" happening to William.

One of us?

"MR BLAIR was glad to read your kind words about Harry Greenway, MP, whom I understand has made a very good impression on you," reads a letter from Downing Street. "It is heartening to hear good reports about Labour MPs who work so hard for their constituents." True, except Greenway was a Tory MP.

• IT WAS hardly bottomless up for 47, during a recent film shoot. A part "bum double", 16 years his junior, was hired.

JASPER GERARD



KILLING RAGE

A murder mocks hopes of peace in Ireland

Yesterday the House of Commons debated in suitably grave terms the descent into gangsterism of part of the United Kingdom. Although Sinn Féin has two elected members of the House, they have not taken their seats, and could take no part in the debate. But their constituency still made its views clear in the most chilling terms. On the morning of the debate a corpse was found by a Newry roadside, the mutilated body of the IRA informer Eamonn Collins. He had dared to expose his former comrades in all their thuggishness. His killing is regrettably terrible, evidence, as if it were needed, of his warning. Militant republicanism is in no mood to heed the appeals to basic morality made in the Commons yesterday. Its answer to debate has proved to be the gun.

Eamonn Collins is only the latest, most horrific, casualty of Ulster's continuing violence. It had been hoped, not least by this newspaper, that the Good Friday agreement signalled terror's eclipse. But the hopes which attended that agreement, and which we nurture still, are imperilled by the Government's apparent acquiescence in the face of persistent violence.

In the Commons yesterday the Prime Minister calmly, and regrettably, pointed out that violent intimidation had occurred during a previous IRA ceasefire and the last Government had been prepared, nevertheless, to treat the ceasefire as intact in the interests of advancing the peace process. There may have been room to criticise the last Government for too great a forbearance towards terrorism, but it was at least possible to argue that leniency was justified on the road to agreement. Blind eyes might be turned for the sake of "luring the men of violence towards peace".

But now there is a settlement. And still no peace. There are embryo cross-border

bodies, a shadow assembly and potential places for Sinn Féin on a new executive. Why is there, then, still tolerance of terror? If, after yielding so much, the Government still does not respond with vigour to violence, then the paramilitaries will conclude there is nothing to be lost, and much perhaps to be gained, by continuing their campaign of intimidation.

Republican terrorists not only scent weakness; they perceive advances, however matters develop. As William Hague pointed out yesterday, if matters go on as they are more convicted terrorists will walk free while more innocent citizens will never walk again. And, all the while, the paramilitaries' stockpiles of arms remain, at the ready. Mr Blair may believe that the only way to keep the agreement alive is to decline to push the IRA too far. But if the IRA is not compelled to decommission its weapons, then democrats will have been pushed beyond endurance.

David Trimble, Ulster's First-Minister-designate, cannot be expected to join an executive whose members include the sponsors of terror. The IRA knows that Mr Trimble's refusal would trigger the collapse of the agreement, but that is a result they do not fear. They calculate Unionism will be held responsible, and any alternative to the failed agreement will be a form of joint Dublin and London rule in Ulster which will underline their perception of the Province's ungovernability, and advance their agenda of destabilising the Union.

The Government has punished paramilitaries before for flagrant breaches of their ceasefires. It must do so again. The means, a moratorium on prisoner releases, are at hand. Unless ministers act, there will be many more families who will join Eamonn Collins's in desperate, and unassuaged, grief.

THE ADEN LINK

Fighting terrorism abroad means cracking down at home

The arrest of three more Britons in Yemen yesterday on terrorism charges on the day when the trial of five others began in Aden has drawn Britain further into the murky politics of southern Arabia. After the murder of British tourists kidnapped by Islamic militants after Christmas, the Government pressed hard for a full and swift investigation. Within days this revealed an unexpected and embarrassing link back to Britain: five British passport-holders were arrested on charges of plotting attacks on British targets in Yemen, and militant Islamic activists at Finsbury Park mosque appeared to be the crucial link between the kidnappers and the arrested Britons.

The Government is torn between diplomatic imperatives: to ensure the capture and sentencing of those responsible for the December killings, while protecting the rights of the five men whose implication appears, on preliminary evidence, to be inescapable. This second duty has been given added urgency by the very plausible reports that the five men have been tortured in custody and by the accusations from their families that less has been done for them than would have been, for white-skinned Christian British citizens.

There should be no contradiction between these priorities. The Yemenis are fully within their rights to arrest anyone suspected of plotting sabotage or stirring up trouble in terrorist training camps: indeed, this is what all governments committed to the fight against terrorism would insist they should do. Universal norms of justice demand clear charges, a properly prepared trial and due access by defendants who are foreigners to consular advice and legal representation. Here the

Yemenis appear to be on shakier ground. Charges were slow, defence counsel has been given only two days to produce witnesses and the men insisted in court that they had been tortured. Beatings may be routine for Yemeni defendants in a country dominated by tribal custom; that does not excuse ill-treatment, forced confessions and torture. Britain should insist on an independent medical examination.

Yemen has now demanded the extradition of Abu Hamza al-Masri, the imam of Finsbury Park mosque who has made no secret of his wish to see the overthrow of the government in Sanaa. He has much to answer for. Allegations that he spoke to the kidnappers before the shooting, the involvement of his stepson and the display of cassettes made by his supporters among the equipment said to have been taken from the defendants all point to a role that could be grounds for prosecution.

Extradition may be awkward. There is no treaty with Yemen, and the conditions of custody could persuade an extradition court that he would not receive a fair trial. But the Government has a new option. New anti-terrorist legislation makes conspiracy to commit terrorism overseas a crime in Britain. Significantly, Derek Fatchett, while not naming Mr Hamza, insisted in the Gulf two days ago that the Government would use these new laws to prosecute where necessary. Yemen should submit whatever evidence it has, the police and MI5 may have evidence of their own. The events at Finsbury mosque appear repellent and unacceptable. If they are indeed also criminal, those responsible should be prosecuted forthwith. Fighting terrorism abroad means cracking down on the scourge at home as well.

READY-WRAPPED POLL TAX

The funding of the Food Standards Agency could be its ruin

The Government's Bill creating a new Food Standards Agency had no reason to be controversial. Salmonella outbreaks, BSE and some spectacular cases of E. coli food poisoning have seriously shaken public confidence. BSE, in particular, confirmed the need for an independent body, immune to producer pressures. The decision to take the policing of food safety out of the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has universal support. Amazingly, the Government has contrived to convert this simple proposal to popularity into a complicated document that will rightly be fiercely contested.

The first flaw in this Bill is that it does not, in fact, take MAFF entirely out of the picture. The FSA's responsibilities risk being too broad, including "healthy eating" rather than food safety alone, and too narrow. Crucially, they do not extend right through the food chain, but only from farmgate to front door. Many food poisoning incidents originate on farms, which will continue to be MAFF territory.

The second is that, far from being visibly separate from the food production industry, the FSA is to be linked to it by the closest possible tie—that of money. Some £54 million a year, just over half its anticipated costs, will be funded through an industry-wide levy. The impost inevitably links the FSA to those it exists to monitor. That is not what the public wants.

The most egregious mistake of all is the divisive way in which this unwise form of

indirect tax is to be raised. Every food outlet, from the tiniest store in remote villages to the bulkiest supermarket suburbia can boast—is to pay the same, a flat £90 a year. This is a monstrous injustice; why should small businesses on tight profit margins pay the same as supermarket chains, which would barely register the sum on their turnover sheets?

The Government's contention that the levy should be the same for all because the risks generated are equal offends common sense. Corner shops for whom food is only marginal to their sales may abandon that part of their business. The policy sits ill with ministers' strictures on unbundled hypermarket development and their ambitions to preserve the fabric of towns; and even less well with job creation. The recent Competitiveness White Paper underlines the importance of small businesses as engines of growth. Sandwich outlets help relatively unskilled people to enter or return to the labour market. The levy will be a disincentive for such small employers.

It is also a political mistake. As the Tories learn to their cost, anything that looks to most people like a poll tax will be so massively resented that, even if it is dropped, an aura of unfairness will linger. If the FSA is vital to public health, then it is important enough to be funded by taxpayers, not producers. The sooner ministers accept that, the less they risk their basically good product turning rancid before it reaches the counter.

Treatment for all?

From Dr Fiona Cornish

Sir, Has the time come for the generosity offered to foreign students and academics for NHS treatment to end?

In no other country would you expect free GP and hospital treatment, merely by being registered for a university course. Many students are baffled by this bizarre generosity and ask where to pay. The answer is that they are not allowed to.

Frank Dobson's Viagra debate has finally alerted the public to the question of rationing: should the British taxpayer fund, for example, renal dialysis or cardiac surgery for students or academic visitors from abroad?

Yours faithfully,
FIONA CORNISH,
Newham Walk Surgery,
Wordsworth Grove,
Cambridge CB3 9HS.
January 22

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ethics of the trade in weapons of war

From Lord Alton of Liverpool

Sir, Nicholas Prest, Chairman of Alvis (letter, January 21), accuses Matthew Paris of nonsense, immorality and pacifism for questioning the Government's arms trade policies.

There is a world of difference between manufacturing the means of defence for a democratically elected government and selling arms to totalitarian governments which violate human rights.

In the case of Indonesia alone, the British Government has issued 60 new licences to companies selling arms since the last general election. On coming to office, it renewed 21,000 existing arms export licences. Not only are there obvious issues of transparency here; there is also the small question of the Government's ethical policy.

Mr Prest's own company has sold armoured vehicles and tanks to the Indonesians. The Indonesian Defence Attaché in London, Colonel Halim, has admitted that UK-manufactured military equipment had been used in East Timor, where 200,000 people are believed to have died at the hands of Indonesian forces.

If Indonesia does not fall foul of the Government's ethical policy and its strictures that arms should not be sold to countries which practise external oppression or internal repression, which countries will?

There are a range of other reasons for at least questioning arms deals such as Eurofighter. The cost of researching, designing and building this plane has been put at £15 billion—about £1 million per job. Alan Clark, MP, a noted military historian, put it well when he said: "We must find less extravagant ways of paying people to make buckets with holes in them."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ALTON,
House of Lords.
January 21

From Mr Trevor Woolston

Sir, We are all indebted to Matthew Paris for raising the old rallying cry, "Swords into ploughshares"; it has become curiously muted in prosperous industrial countries in recent years.

Are we all being moulded into double standards? Ban handguns, but build up our capacity to make mass killing acceptable? Condemn terrorism, but indulge in terrorist bombing of any nation which does not bow to big-power pressure?

Matthew Paris is certainly right. The arms trade is morally wrong and we have yet to learn better ways of building peace. On our present showing, we will certainly be thought mad by any future wise men who, somehow, manage to survive.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR WOOLSTON,
East Mill House,
Grinton, Richmond,
North Yorkshire DL11 6HL.
January 18

Candour on Viagra

From Professor Richard Green

Sir, When Dr Thomas Stuttaford and I were medical students, shame prevented patients from confessing to a sexual problem and embarrassment prevented patients and family from admitting that they had cancer. A man in life did not talk publicly of his impotence and in death his obituary euphemistically referred to "a long illness". That is why Dr Stuttaford's account (January 22) of his prostate cancer surgery and its effect on his sexuality, whimsically titled "I might just as well swallow a Smarde as take Viagra", is so refreshingly candid.

With his self-disclosure, Dr Stuttaford condemns the Health Secretary's cynicism in permitting NHS prescriptions for the anti-impotence drug only for patients with a severely disrupted nerve or blood supply, for whom it probably won't work, and who therefore won't return for a refill.

Whatever the merits of this governmental strategy to contain NHS costs, Dr Stuttaford is to be commended for his candour as a model for his patients and the public.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD GREEN
(Consultant psychiatrist),
Imperial College School of Medicine,
Charing Cross Hospital, W6 8RF.
January 22

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Yours faithfully,
FIONA CORNISH,
Newham Walk Surgery,
Wordsworth Grove,
Cambridge CB3 9HS.
January 22

Snape's fears of 'quiet' air traffic

From Canon John Giles

Sir, The northeast end of the Bentwaters runway (which can and will take large commercial jets under the present proposals) is less than three miles from the Snape Maltings Concert Hall (letters, January 21 and 26).

The runway points a mere 19 degrees away from a direct line over the Maltings. Planes will be taking off and landing as close as that. As far as the timing of flights is concerned as to not to interfere with music and recordings. Aldeburgh Productions has received as yet no acceptable concessions that would allow the two operations to coexist.

I remember a course for clergy held in Windsor, six miles from Heathrow, where lectures were repeatedly interrupted by aircraft noise. With a window open in hot weather, lecturers had to stop speaking for ten seconds or more before they could be heard again.

Mr Yann Borgstedt, the Project Manager for the proposed revitalised Bentwater Airport, says in his letter today that aircraft noise "will hardly be heard at the Maltings above the background noise of daily life". But the point about the Maltings is that there truly is virtually no background noise of daily life. Outside the hall the birds, insects, the very reeds of the Alde estuary are all that can be heard.

It is a unique home and setting for music. If it is wrecked, the artists drawn here will dwindle. Commercial flights a day in ten years' time, yet create 2,000 local jobs, is it a viable proposition?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN PALMER,
Prospect House,
Shilling Street,
Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9RH.
January 26

Dowsing rods

From Mr Ian R. M. Chaston

Sir, I must disagree with Nigel Hawkes (Science Briefing, January 20) that there is "no plausible mechanism" to explain dowsing.

Most people are sensitive to variations in local electromagnetic fields, such as exist in the presence of flowing streams of water, power cables, etc. These variations interfere with the electric signals along the neurons between the hands holding the dowsing rods, which communicate to the brain and back to the muscles that keep the rods in position.

This imbalance makes it difficult for such people to hold the rods steady: the more they try the more their muscles will twist the rods. This movement then reveals the presence of this field variation.

Anyone who wishes to test their natural ability should experiment with the simple rods used by house repairers to indicate the presence of hidden pipes and cables. These were in general use before the advent of today's less subjective, electronic instruments.

Yours faithfully,
T. SHORT,
Energy Group,
Department of Engineering,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights, PO Box 225,
Reading, Berkshire RG6 6AY.
t.short@reading.ac.uk
January 21

Wind turbines

From Mr T. D. Short

Sir, I disagree with Mr John Campbell, QC (letter, January 19), that wind turbines are "useless". They create thousands of megawatts of electricity each year and save untold tonnes of carbon dioxide from being pumped into the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide will always be produced in one form or another by gas or coal-fired power plants—that is inescapable. But we can do something about it now, preventing the need for future treatment.

To dismiss wind farms because of their (arguable) adverse effect on the landscape is short-termism of the worst kind. Wind turbines do work. They produce "clean" and "green" electricity at a price that is commercially viable and at no cost to our futures. Maybe the current proportion is negligible compared to demand: the usual commercial response to such a situation is not to cut off supply entirely, but to provide more.

Yours faithfully,
T. SHORT,
Energy Group,
Department of Engineering,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights, PO Box 225,
Reading, Berkshire RG6 6AY.
t.d.short@reading.ac.uk
January 21

The Monty style

From Mr Ralph Barnes

Sir, Recent references to Field Marshal Montgomery (letters, January 18 and 22) have reminded me of an experience when I was teaching in the early 1960s.

I took a party of boys to visit Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. When we were walking along Whitehall I spotted Monty leaving a saloon car and walking towards the War Office. I called to my pupils to run with me towards him.

We arrived in time at the entrance and I stood to attention saluted and stated my rank, name and number. He looked at each boy and pointing a finger he uttered: "Haircut! haircut! haircut!"

Yours truly,
RALPH BARNES,
81 Windsor Court,
Chase Side, Southgate, N14 5HT.
January 22

Mixed foods

From Dr Carl James

Sir, Contrary to the inset accompanying your report on cost-cutting in Russian chocolate factories by the increased use of carrots (January 23), the word marmalade does not "derive from the Portuguese name for preserves made from carrots". The Portuguese name for carrot is cenoura.

A more likely etymology for marmalade is that it derives from the Portuguese marmelo meaning quince (*Pyrus syriaca*), itself originating either in Arabic or in Greek melon (honey apple). Portuguese marmelada is quite simply quince jelly.

The only association I can construe between the word marmelada and cost-cutting is its use in Brazilian football slang for a fixed or rigged game.

Yours faithfully,
CARL JAMES,
University of Wales,
Linguistics Department,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG.
January 25

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk</p



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 27: The Prince of Wales was represented by Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Graham, late Gordon Highlanders, at the funeral of Captain George Watson, late Gordon Highlanders, at Ulver Green Church, Aberdeenshire, yesterday.

His Royal Highness was represented by Colonel Robert French Blake at a memorial service for Mr Albert Abel at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, Mayfair, today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 27: The Princess Royal, President of the Paroxysm Society, attended the "Action on Women's Safety" Conference at Elys Building, Lancashire Constabulary Headquarters, Hutton, Lancashire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire (The Lord Shuttleworth).

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as patron, Victim Support Scotland, will launch the Victim Support City of Glasgow service at 10 Jocelyn Square, Glasgow, at 11.00; will visit the Glasgow University Media Group at the Mass Media Unit, 61 Southpark Avenue, at 12.45; and will open the Strathclyde University's Institute for Biomedical Sciences at 27 Taylor Street, at 3.00. Later, with others, attended the "Action on Women's Safety" Conference at Elys Building, Lancashire Constabulary Headquarters, Hutton, Lancashire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire (The Lord Shuttleworth).

Macmillan Cancer Relief
Macmillan Cancer Relief announces the appointment of Sir Kenneth Calman, former Chief Medical Officer, to the board. Four other appointments were also made: Dame Gillian Oliver, Mrs Roddy Petley, Miss Sue Kirk and Mr David Paton.

Meeting
Royal Institute of International Affairs
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Chatham House. Mr Peter Horrocks presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509, Pembroke Castle, 1457; John Baskerville, typographer and printer, Worcester, 1706; Charles George Gordon, general, London, 1833; Sir Henry Stanley, explorer and journalist, Denbigh, 1841; William Seward Burroughs, pioneer of adding machines, New York, 1855; Colette, writer, St-Sauveur-en-Puisaye, 1873; Auguste Picard, physicist, sea and stratosphere explorer, basic 1894; Arthur Rubinstein, pianist, Lodz, Poland, 1887; Jackson Pollock, Expressionist painter, Cody, Wyoming, 1912; Harry Corbett, puppeteer and entertainer, Bradford, Yorkshire, 1916.
DEATHS: Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor, 800-814, Aachen, Germany, 814; King Henry VIII, reigned 1509-47, Greenwich, 1547; Sir Francis Drake, navigator and pirate, Porto Bello, West Indies, 1596; Sir Thomas Bodley, diplomat and founder of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, London, 1621; William Burke, body-snatcher, executed in Edinburgh, 1829; William Butler Yeats, poet and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1923, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, 1939; Billy Fury, singer, London, 1983.

Edward VI acceded to the throne, 1547.
The American space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, killing five men and two women, 1986.

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Memorial services

Mr Albert P. Abel
The Prince of Wales was represented by Colonel Robert French Blake at a requiem mass in thanksgiving for the life of Mr Albert Abel, international businessman, held yesterday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London W1. Father Michael O'Halloran and Father Shafiq Abouzayd, Melkite parish priest, officiated.

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres read the lesson. The Ambassador of Lebanon and Sir Anthony Joffie paid tribute. Among others present were:

Mrs Abel (widow), Mr and Mrs Albert J.M. Lewis, Mr and Mrs Alan Alda, Mr and Mrs John Hayes, Mr and Mrs Pauline Hayes, Mr and Mrs Michael Martin, Mr and Mrs Raymond, Mr and Mrs Dan Norris, Mr and Mrs Stephen Tugby, Mr and Mrs Alexander Pines, Mr and Mrs Peter Harcourt, Mr and Mrs Jim Rodgers, Mrs and Mr Nicholas Seven.

Major-General Sir Charles Dunphy

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major-General Sir Charles Dunphy was held yesterday at St Sepher's, Charlton Musgrave, Somerset. The Rev Kenneth Reeve officiated, assisted by the Rev Robert Widdowson.

Brigadier Christopher Dunphy, son, read the lesson and Mr Nicholas Baker, Mr and Mrs Nigel Baker and Captain Charles Dunphy, grandsons, gave readings. Lady Dunphy, widow, other members of the family, friends and former colleagues attended.

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OBITUARIES

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR LESLIE TOWNSEND

Rear-Admiral Sir Leslie Townsend, KCVO, CBE, Defence Services Secretary, 1979-82, died on January 13 aged 74. He was born on February 22, 1924.

Leslie Townsend was one of that small group of naval officers who reached high rank after entering the Navy as a rating. The son of a merchant seaman, he always attributed his success to his demanding, frugal and positive mother, a former lady's maid who lived to be nearly 100 and who obliged her son to speak properly and to attend night school where he learnt maths, German and typing.

Although eligible at the age of 15 when war broke out, he was unable to join the Navy as a boy seaman because his father refused his consent. Threatened with imprisonment by a recruiting sergeant for altering his National Employment Card when he tried to join the Army, he went to work in an aircraft factory near Southampton, building Blenheim bombers. He was lucky to survive an air raid in September 1940 which killed fifty and destroyed the factory. He recalled how the centre of Southampton was nearly obliterated by the Luftwaffe and how thousands used to trek out to spend the nights in the countryside wrapped in blankets or canvas.

Accepted by the Navy in early 1942, Townsend trained as a signalman and was drafted to the light cruiser *Durham*. Service in this obsolete, uncomfortable ship in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean inspired in Townsend an inextinguishable concern for the conditions of sailors living on the lower deck.

Because he could type, he

was employed in the captain's office when a perceptive midshipman Charles Weston flattered himself to become a rear-admiral persuaded him to try for a commission.

After training at the officer school at Port Elizabeth in South Africa, Townsend was promoted to sub-lieutenant RNVR. Short of money for his uniform, he telegraphed his mother for £50 which duly arrived. A letter from his father expressed pleasure and surprise: "In my day only the sons of gentlemen became officers."

He spent the rest of the war in supply and secretariat duties at a naval air station near Freetown in Sierra Leone. On one occasion, flying on anti-submarine patrol for the experience, he had a nasty shock when, on suggesting they should turn for base, he found the pilot fast asleep.

After assisting with the military run-down in Nigeria, Townsend returned home, arriving on VJ-Day in August 1945, after three years abroad. Shortly afterwards he met his wife Marjorie, a Wren Chief Petty Officer.

Granted a permanent commission in late 1946, he followed a Supply and Secretariat officer's career with the accent on service with flagship and C-in-C staffs.

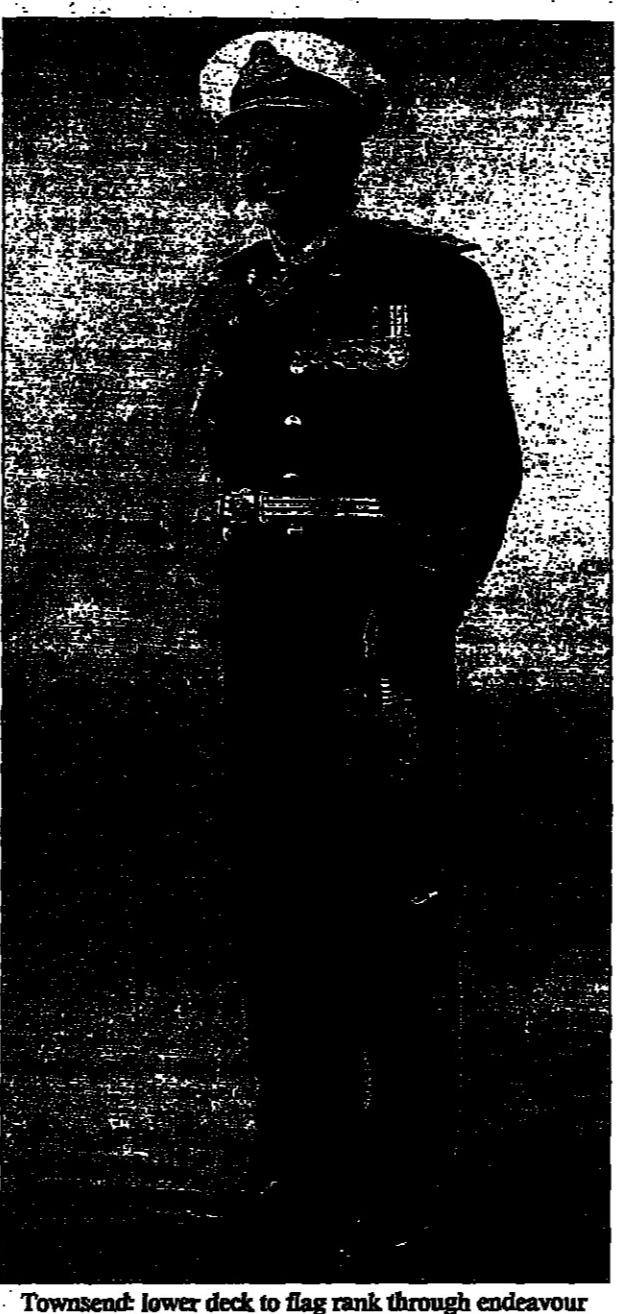
He recalled that the decade to 1956 was a stagnant period for the Royal Navy, with questionable morale among people who had had a long war and were still enduring unenlightened conditions of service. Townsend owed at least two of his appointments to the malfeasance or premature resignation of previous incumbents.

An outstandingly efficient officer, Townsend was rapidly promoted. In his first appointment

he was appointed C-in-C Petty Officers.

For 12 years he was a member of the Lord Chancellors' Panel of Independent Inspectors and was lay representative on the Armed Forces Pensions Appeal Tribunal. His charitable interests included the life vice-presidency of the RN Benevolent Trust.

He is survived by his wife Marjorie, and their son and three daughters.



Townsend: lower deck to flag rank through endeavour

PROFESSOR H. A. F. TURNER

Professor H. A. F. Turner, Montague Burton Professor of Industrial Relations in the University of Cambridge, 1963-83, died at his home in France on December 2 aged 78. He was born in London on December 11, 1919.

BERT TURNER was the most original of the creators of industrial relations as an academic subject in Britain after 1945. His interests were wide and he made many thought-provoking contributions. Early employment at the TUC under Sir Walter Citrine gave him a lasting interest in economic policy, price and wage inflation, trade union activities, management and industrial relations systems, collective bargaining and employment conditions.

Turner was the first academic in Britain to consider the Swedish concept of "wage drift", the tendency of earnings to increase faster than agreed wage rates. He took the

lead in examining the impact of trade union organisation and policy on wages and wage differentials. He was among the first to consider the potential for prices and incomes policies to counter wage and price inflation. He also carried out ground-breaking studies of strikes and the extent to which trade unions cause inflation.

His great strength was a thorough understanding of the TUC and was part of the

economics and statistics, particularly the operation of labour markets and the limitations of available statistics. This set him apart from most other academic industrial relations specialists, notably the Oxford group, who concentrated on institutional background and history, the nature of trade unions and collective bargaining. He also had a strong interest in labour policy and in prices and incomes policies in less developed countries, and advised many governments, particularly in Africa. The recent problems suffered by many of these countries were a source of sadness to him.

Herbert Arthur Frederick Turner was educated at the Henry Thornton School, Clapham, and graduated from LSE in 1939. He spent the war first in the Army and later on the Second Sea Lord's staff. In 1944 he joined the research and economic department of the TUC and was part of the

team which prepared the *Interim Report on Post-War Reconstruction* which mapped out the Attlee Government's programme.

In 1950 he took up the new post of lecturer in industrial relations at Manchester University, and his 1952 article, *Trade Unions, Differentialism and the Levelling of Wages*, previewed his theory of the effect of trade union structure on pay differentials. His book *Trade Union Growth, Structure and Policy* (1962) was the most far-ranging analysis of British trade unions since the Webs.

In 1963, after two years as Montague Burton Professor of Industrial Relations at Leeds University, he took up the Cambridge chair. There he showed the breadth of his interests. In 1965 he published *Wages: the Problems for Underdeveloped Countries* and in 1966 *Prices, Wages and Incomes Policies*. He gathered around him a notable

search team whose output under his leadership included *Labour Relations in the Motor Industry* (1967), the first and most thorough investigation into Britain's most notorious industrial relations trouble-spot: *Is Britain Really Strike-Prone?* (1969), his most notable attack on accepted notions: *Do Trade Unions Cause Inflation?* (1972), a detailed analysis of one of the world's most pressing problems; and *Management Characteristics and Labour Conflict* (1978).

He became a part-time member of the National Board for Prices and Incomes in 1967 until its dissolution, playing an important part in the application of the prices and incomes policy of the day.

His expertise was also in growing demand internationally. For many years he advised, mainly on labour and pay policy, a range of governments of developing countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, either directly or through the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations, and he was a World Bank consultant on China.

Bert Turner was tall, blond, lean, imposing and a snappy dresser. Both professionally and personally he was an iconoclast. His contributions to debates were always well judged and concise, even if occasionally delivered in a seemingly off-hand and flippan manner, particularly to the pompous.

He was an inspiring lecturer and his tutorials and post-graduate supervisions were challenging and provocative, as students were prodded and persuaded into thinking. He was good company, kind, sharp, funny, zestful and thoughtful in turn.

He is survived by his fourth wife, Evelyne Hanquart-Turner, Professor of English at the University of Paris XII, by their son and daughter, by a daughter of his second marriage and by the two sons and daughter of his first.

JACK CARTER

Jack Carter, choreographer, died on December 30 aged 81. He was born on August 8, 1917.

DESPITE having worked for almost every important British ballet company, Jack Carter was a choreographer less honoured than he deserved in his own country. Nevertheless, talent and perseverance enabled him to maintain a freelance career for more than 50 years, mounting his ballets all over the world. Some of them enjoyed a long life, and there were others which, although not remaining long in the repertoire, left vivid and abiding memories.

Jack Carter was born at Shirehampton, Oxfordshire, to farming parents who opposed his choice of career. His first passion was for music, and his earliest experience of theatre was when his school gymnastics class took part dancing in *Mlada* for the local operatic society. After leaving school he travelled to see opera when he could, despite being so hard up that he walked from Paddington to Covent Garden to keep costs down. Dance became his obsession once he had seen the Ballet Russe all over the world. Some of them enjoyed a long life, and there were others which, although not remaining long in the repertoire, left vivid and abiding memories.

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Not that there was much glamour in his beginnings as a dancer, which were postponed by wartime service. He managed, however, to compose some music during the war, and had the pleasure of hearing two short pieces played by the BBC. Eventually a demobilisation grant paid for dance classes. So he started ballet very late, at rising 30, which may explain why he always knocked six years off his age in the dance reference books.

Molly Lake first employed him as a dancer in her Ballet Guild and later in her *Continental Ballet*. When her inspiration dried up while making a duet for a new ballet, she caught him smiling and challenged him to finish it. That prompted his first complete choreography, *Fantaisie*, to Chopin music, in 1946. It seemed largely an unashamed imitation of Ashton's *Dante Sonata*, but he begged the distinguished choreographer Antony Tudor to watch it: he found enough promise to say "Keep going — you might do something worthwhile some day."

Another piece for Continental Ballet, the lively *Impromptu for Twelve*, was followed between 1950 and 1952 by several works for Ballet Workshop, formed at the tiny Mercury Theatre, Notting Hill, to develop new choreographers. Carter's *Echo and Narcissus* for them was shown on BBC television with two distinguished dancers, John Gilpin and Nathalie Krassovska, and he made an ambitious Proust evocation which was taken

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Based on the American ballad of Barbara Allen, *The Witchboy* is a powerful drama about a beautiful supernatural creature who causes mob violence in a small community, is destroyed but rises again to new life. The emotional plot, its intellectual implications about good and evil, Carter's vivid choreography for principals and ensemble, and McDowell's double contribution as designer and as performer of the title role, ensured a major hit.

Deciding to leave Holland, Carter now set out to persuade Festival Ballet to mount *The Witchboy* for John Gilpin, its leading man, as a complete contrast to his usual classical parts. After many delays they agreed and it was toured widely, leading to further work for Festival Ballet (including one with plot and music by Noel Coward, *London Morn*), and to commissions for other countries.

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THURSDAY JANUARY 28 1999

NEWS

Murder strains Ulster peace plan

Republicans were accused last night of murdering a prominent IRA defector who was found with severe head injuries minutes after he had apparently painted over graffiti predicting his death.

The body of Eamonn Collins, a self-confessed IRA killer who exposed republican atrocities in the book *Killing Rage*, was found on a country lane just before dawn.....Pages 1, 12, 13

Muslim cleric's son arrested in Yemen

The teenage son of a Muslim cleric suspected of masterminding terrorist operations from his London mosque was seized in Yemen. Muhammed Kamil Mustapha and two other Britons were captured at what the Yemenis described as a mountain-top terrorist training camp, shortly before five Britons went on trial accused of plotting bombings in Aden.....Pages 1, 4

Labour stays ahead

Tony Blair and Labour have maintained their commanding lead in the opinion polls over the faltering Tories, brushing aside the Christmas wobbles and infighting.....Page 1

NHS morale low

Frank Dobson admitted that NHS morale is generally low, with a shortage of at least 9,000 nurses, problems in recruiting inner-city GPs and a danger of care standards falling.....Page 2

Hollingsworth fined

The showbusiness agent husband of Anne Diamond was fined and banned from driving after a court was told of a violent row with a former girlfriend at a Halloween party.....Page 3

Actor 'faked' shock

An amateur actor gave signs of suffering deep shock shortly after she is alleged to have bludgeoned and stabbed her lover's wife to death, a court heard.....Page 3

Animal trainer guilty

Mary Chipperfield left court with her reputation as an animal trainer in tatters after she was found guilty of hitting and kicking a baby chimpanzee.....Page 5

Legal fee breakdown

The Lord Chancellor has agreed to withdraw his plans for "no win, no fee" arrangements for divorcing couples who are fighting over property or money.....Page 6

Welsh cowboy line-dances to fame

A teenager from South Wales has stomped his way to victory in the world line-dancing championships, defeating America's leading Country and Western dancers on their home ground. Accompanied by his mother, Lynda, Chris Brocklesby, 17, travelled from Llanelli to Texas to compete against hundreds of championship-winning line-dancers.....Page 7

Fraud claim dropped

Two women who told police that Mohammed Sarwar had urged them to falsify their electoral registration forms withdrew their allegations as they faced the Labour MP in court.....Page 7

Euthanasia inquiry

Fresh allegations of "backdoor euthanasia" in Britain's hospitals are being investigated by police and health officials.....Page 8

Georgian is ideal

The 1990s dream home is a four-bedroom Georgian house set in a couple of acres in the West Country costing up to £500,000, according to *Country Life*.....Page 9

Lewinsky must testify

Monica Lewinsky and two presidential advisers must testify in person before the Senate, senators insisted, after blocking an attempt to scrap the trial of President Clinton.....Page 17

Rain hampers rescue

Heavy rain and intermittent after shocks hampered rescue operations in Colombia's earthquake-stricken Andean coffee-growing heartland where more than 2,000 are feared dead.....Page 18

Abdication rumours

Amid rumours of a possible abdication for health reasons by King Hussein, his ruling family struggled to boost support for the new Crown Prince Abdullah and to patch up palace feuds.....Page 19

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grinds Graf into
Melbourne dust
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JANUARY 28 1999

Chancellor's own guidelines leave him 'little scope' for radical Budget changes

Slowdown cuts Brown's options

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN will have "little scope" for radical Budget changes because the economic slowdown has left him barely able to meet his own borrowing guidelines, a leading economics think-tank claimed yesterday.

However, the annual Institute for Fiscal Studies/Goldman Sachs Green Budget forecasts that the Chancellor may finally introduce the long-awaited 10p tax band — al-

though he will need to make other tax increases to fund it. The warning came as new data showed that Britain's trade deficit with non-EU countries reached record proportions last year when the financial crises in Asia and Russia exacted a big toll of the country's export performance.

Economists claimed that the deteriorating trade balance is now likely to act as a significant drag on economic growth this year and the Bank of England will need to cut rates again to try to compensate.

David Walton, UK econo-

mist at Goldman Sachs, told the *Green Budget* launch that although interest rates should fall to 5 per cent by the end of this year, this would not prevent the economy "flirting with recession".

Growth is expected to fall to just 0.4 per cent this year, resulting in higher social security spending and lower tax receipts than the Government is currently forecasting. As a result, the Chancellor will have "very little margin for error" on his borrowing rules. "There is no case for significant fiscal adjustments in either direction."

Mr Walton said: Further fiscal tightening would prolong the economic slowdown, while a giveaway budget would breach the borrowing rules. The IFS added that if Mr Brown uses the Budget to introduce the 10p tax starting rate, he would look for other measures, such as the abolition of mortgage interest relief, to fund it.

The alternative would be to abolish the existing 20p rate of tax and introduce the 10p rate over a smaller band to ensure it has a neutral impact. The IFS calculates that this could be achieved if the 10p band is

only introduced on the first £880 of taxable income.

The trade figures showed that the December non-EU trade gap narrowed, only to £1.65 billion, leaving the whole-year deficit at a record £15.7 billion, double that of 1997. The November global trade gap also widened to £2.18 billion from £1.62 billion the previous month, while the quarterly deficit registered £6.4 billion — the highest figure in nearly ten years.

Analysts said the poor trade performance will reduce GDP by up to 0.75 percentage points

and that the Bank may react by cutting rates in an effort to stimulate domestic demand.

Eddie George, the Governor, confirmed that the Bank will consider this strategy, telling the House of Lords Monetary Affairs Select Committee on Tuesday that industrialised countries will have to consider cutting rates to compensate for the poor global trade outlook.

In value terms, exports to South-East Asia fell 27 per cent in the year to December, while the value of imports from the region rose by 3 per cent. Exports to Russia also slumped by a quarter.

Liverpool Victoria fined £900,000

By CAROLINE MICKELSON

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA, the UK's biggest friendly society, has been fined £900,000 by the Personal Insurance Authority (PIA). It must also pay compensation, estimated at £10 million.

The society failed to keep proper records of the sales it made, failed to recruit salespeople with adequate training, and failed to keep up with regulatory changes introduced to protect customers.

The PIA censure comes amid rumours about a rift between Roy Hurley, the chief executive, and Andrew Noble,

weeks after the departure of David Cheeseman, the former compliance director, who was recruited three years ago from Prudential Corporation.

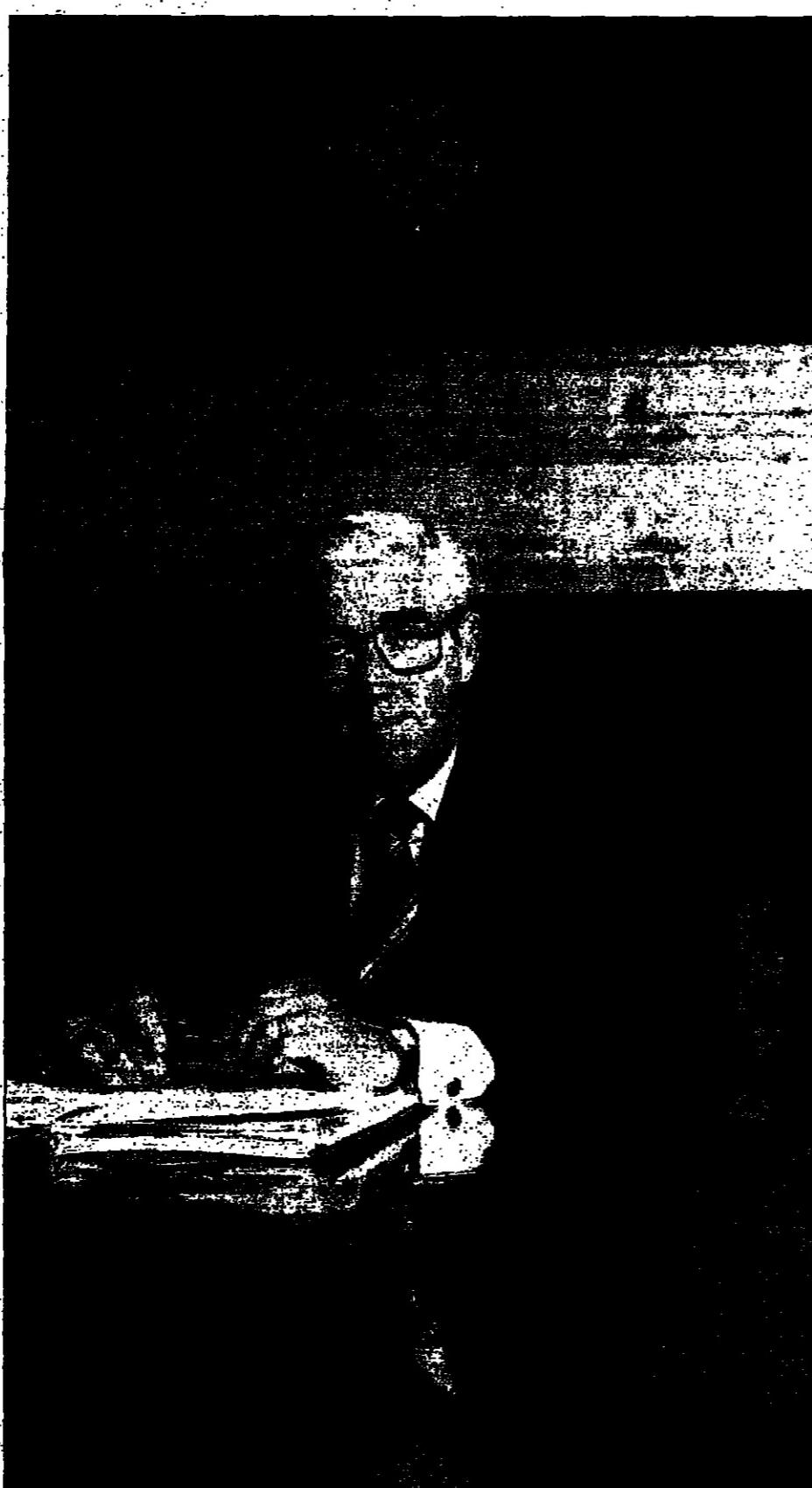
The friendly society, which has two million policyholders and £5 billion under management, claims that it wants to remain both mutual and independent. However, the fine and the problems it reveals pave the way for an approach from a bidder. The balance sheet benefits from £1 billion of extra assets that do not have to be distributed to policyholders. United Insurance and Royal London, another mutual, have both been tipped as possible bidders.

Mr Hurley, recruited from the AA to revitalise the society, admitted last year that its staff had been stretched "almost to breaking point", as it went through an extensive reorganisation and restructuring programme. The review ended with the departure of all but 50 of its salesmen, and 450 agents responsible for collecting premiums door-to-door.

Mr Hurley said: "This has been a difficult and painful period for the Liverpool Victoria Group. It is encouraging to see that the PIA has recognised the amount of effort and resource that has been and is being invested to ensure we are fully compliant for the future."

Mr Hurley trained as an accountant before joining the insurance industry, and, as a former Barnardo's boy, believes he has an affinity with the Liverpool Victoria client base.

The fine is imposed just



Roy Hurley said that staff had been stretched almost to breaking point during reorganisation

Old Mutual move to benefit black policyholders

By MARIANNE CURPHAY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1.5 million black policyholders with Old Mutual, the South African life insurer, will receive a windfall worth one year's average salary when the company demutualises and joins the London stock market.

Half of the 3.2 million beneficiaries of the demutualisation, announced yesterday, are from the black middle class and live in South Africa and Zimbabwe. The distribution of about 300 shares per member, worth about £400, is likely to have a significant effect on the local economy.

Old Mutual is the latest in a line of established South African businesses to announce they intend to relocate their headquarters to London. The company confirmed yesterday it had been grant-

Bumper £730,000 payoff for Sears finance director

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DAVID DEFTY, the finance director of Sears, is in line for a bumper payoff of nearly £730,000 following the takeover of the retail group by January Investors. The company backed by David and Frederick Barclay and run by Philip Green.

According to the final offer document sent to Sears' shareholders last night, Mr Defty was paid £55,000 as a discretionary performance-related bonus on Monday. He is also to be paid a loyalty bonus of £220,000 by April 30, and he will be paid a further £453,410 in connection with the severance of his two-year contract. Mr Defty joined the company in 1994 and was on an annual salary of £220,000.

Roger Groom, the property director, is the only other director who has agreed severance terms so far, according to the document. He will receive a payoff of £268,368 plus a contribution of £50,000 into the company pension scheme. Mr Groom was also on a two-year contract and was on a salary of £177,800.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, is to stay on the board for a period following the takeover, as is Lord Tebbit, a non-executive director, in order to look after the interests of minority shareholders.

January Investments declared yesterday that it now owns 72.6 per cent of Sears. The 35p a share offer, which values the company at £548 million, closes on February 19.

GRE chief to argue against auction offers

By JASON NISSE

JOHN ROBINS, chief executive of Guardian Royal Exchange, is to present a case for rejecting all offers for the insurer to the board tomorrow, arguing that a break-up of the company by existing management could raise £2.7 billion.

The board is to consider the final offers by at least three bidders in the auction being conducted by Morgan Stanley, the investment bank.

Royal & SunAlliance is leading the race with an offer of £2.4 billion or 390p a share. This offer is a mixture of cash and RSA shares and would be almost certain to be referred to the parts of the group to the highest bidders. Prudential Corporation is understood to be keen on the US business while AXA is eager to buy the UK general insurance operations.

Europcar, a consortium of six European mutual insurers, including Friends Provident, has offered 385p a share in cash. Though the bid is

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	PRICE	CHANGE
FTSE 100	5876.4	(-0.3)
Yield	2.75%	
FTSE All Share	2577.42	(+0.78)
Change	14450.06	(+63.05)
New York		
Dow Jones	2228.58	(-26.00)*
S&P Composite	1252.48	(-0.15)*
London		
FTSE 100	5876.4	(-0.3)
Yield	2.75%	
FTSE All Share	2577.42	(+0.78)
Change	14450.06	(+63.05)
EUROPE		
Federal Funds	4%*	(4.0%)
Long bond	101.5*	(101.5)
Yield	5.15%*	(5.12%)
Japan		
Nikkei 225	120.11	(120.21)
Asia		
Hong Kong	1,648.5	(1,656.9)
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London		

Emerging markets to cost banks £36bn

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

BANKS faces losses of about \$60 billion (£36 billion) because of their exposure to volatile emerging markets, according to the Institute of International Finance (IIF).

The institute, which represents more than 300 financial institutions worldwide, yesterday urged private sector lenders to take urgent steps to

strengthen their risk analysis and risk management.

The turmoil in emerging markets forced many institutions to re-examine their risk management procedures rigorously, said John Bond, chairman of HSBC, who is also head of the IIF. The IIF is one of the few industry groups so far to have apportioned some of the blame for the financial crisis to the incompetence of lenders.

Mr Bond said: "This is axiomatic

— both borrowers and lenders must do a better job in making sound decisions, if the problems of the past 18 months are not to be repeated."

In this context, an IIF working group yesterday suggested the development of a direct dialogue between country authorities and the private sector in crisis avoidance and for greater private sector involvement in crisis resolution.

It said that mechanisms should be

put in place for regular and comprehensive consultation by sovereign borrowers with private sector creditors and investors in meetings and teleconferences. It cited the example of Mexico which, since 1996, has held quarterly briefings with market participants involving senior finance ministry and central bank officials.

The IIF said yesterday that net private capital flows to leading emerging market economies were expected

to total \$140 billion this year. This is a little lower than the \$150 billion in 1998 but much weaker than the \$260 billion of 1997.

However, it expects foreign direct investment to hold near to the 1998 total and predicted a recovery in portfolio equity flows to emerging markets to some \$19 billion from only \$2.4 billion in 1998. These two categories indicated a robust long-term confidence in emerging market economies.

Rock offers combined mortgage and loan

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN ROCK is to launch a new home loan that will allow people to borrow more than 100 per cent of the value of a property despite giving a warning that the UK economy was headed for a "bumpy landing". The former building society has set aside £3.1 million in the second half against any further deterioration in economic conditions.

The new home loan, dubbed Together and supported by a £1 million advertising campaign, bundles together a mortgage and a personal loan. Interest rates on 100 per cent mortgages are usually far higher than loans for 95 per cent or lower of a property's market value.

The general provision held annual profits to £21.6 million, a 7.6 per cent rise on 1997 but still at the lower end of the City's forecasts for Northern Rock's first full year as a quoted bank.

Net lending was unchanged at £1.8 billion, equivalent to an estimated market share of 7 per cent, more than double Northern Rock's historical share of mortgage stock. But the bank maintained these high volumes at the expense of profitability: the net interest margin fell to 1.70 per cent from 1.92 per cent.

Adam Applegarth, executive director, said the decline in the net interest margin was offset by the growth in other income. Fixed interest rate mortgages — which accounted for 78 per

cent of business in 1998 compared with 57 per cent in the previous year — were less profitable, but the fees stemming from such deals were higher, said Mr Applegarth.

The bank said it would pay a final dividend of 8.1p per share, taking the total dividend to 12p, a rise of 14.3 per cent. The final dividend, payable on May 28, will be worth £40.50 to former members who kept hold of the basic 500-share distribution at conversion, and comes on top of an interim dividend worth £19.50. Northern Rock said it had 336,000 small shareholders, representing about 40 per cent of the total stock.

Leo Finn, chief executive, said he had noticed no signs of a deterioration in credit quality; both arrears and possessions fell during the year. But he said the economy "was headed for a bumpy landing; we just don't know how bumpy", adding that falling interest rates might protect the housing market from the worst of any decline.

Mr Finn also said the bank was considering the securitisation of new mortgage business. This involves bundling together small loans and selling them off in the bond markets. Northern Rock shares fell 30.5p to 497.5p yesterday.

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Bob Bennett, left, finance director, Leo Finn and Adam Applegarth say the economy is headed for a bumpy landing

BDO poised to merge with rival

BY ROBERT BRUCE

BDO STOY HAYWARD is to merge with rival Moores Rowland, creating an accountancy firm with 232 partners and some 2,000 staff in 35 offices. Moores Rowland has more than 80 partners and 600 staff.

The expectation is that the merger will trigger considerable and urgent consolidation among the remaining mid-tier firms, all of which are now some way ahead of both the enlarged BDO Stoy Hayward and Grant Thornton.

Moores Rowland, whose name will vanish after the March 1 merger date, was last year involved in a ten-month marathon effort to merge with the firm of Kidsons, which was finally called off in October.

Accountancy, page 32

London Electricity deal passed by EU

BY ADAM JONES

THE European Commission has approved the £1.9 billion purchase of London Electricity by Electricité de France, disregarding the UK Government's claim that it should rule on the deal.

The Government had wanted the Office of Fair Trading to adjudicate because it was worried that EDF already exports electricity to the UK.

However, the European Commission waved the deal through yesterday. It said the takeover "would not materially affect competition" in the

UK, despite the "vertical integration" of generator and supplier, and that there was no need to refer it back to the UK.

A Department of Trade and Industry spokesman claimed that the Government was satisfied because Brussels said it could impose conditions on London's licence to make sure the supply business is clearly separated from the rest of EDF and that London does not end up striking contracts with EDF generators.

Unit trust pricing to be simpler

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Financial Services Authority is allowing fund managers to simplify the pricing structure of their unit trusts in an attempt to encourage new investors in the stock market.

From next month, fund managers will be free to replace the dual pricing system, which has confused investors for years, with simpler single pricing.

The FSA's move also makes it easier for fund managers to fulfil the criteria for the Government's Car (cost, access, terms) standard, which will be used to promote good value individual savings accounts when they replace personal equity plans in April.

The FSA is expected to make single pricing compulsory by 2001.

Dual pricing — in which investors can choose separate offer and bid prices when they buy and sell units in a fund — has long been unpopular with the public as it is complex and has led to charges that some fund managers were using the method to hide their fees.

Under single pricing, investors will be quoted a single mid-price when they buy and sell. Dealing costs and management fees will be explicit.

CGU defies economic slowdown

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE
CORRESPONDENT

CGU, the composite insurer, reported an 8 per cent rise in worldwide new business to £5.43 billion, despite volatile investment markets over the past year and the economic slowdown.

Although the figure was just under the £5.52 billion expected by analysts, CGU shares rose 29.5p to 876.5p after good results from the UK, The Netherlands and Italy were unveiled.

New worldwide annual premiums rose 11 per cent to £441 million, while single premium sales were 4 per cent higher at £4.4 billion.

Sales of retail investment products such as personal equity plans (PEPs) and unit trusts rose 48 per cent to £602 million.

CGU said that applications for PEPs in the first week of 1999 were up 40 per cent on the same period last year. This reflects retail demand for PEPs in the last financial year they will be available to savers before they are replaced by the individual savings account (ISA).

Tempus, page 30

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Hopes for British Biotech on back of giant US deal

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE beleaguered biotechnology industry has been given a shot in the arm by Warner-Lambert, the American drugs group that is paying \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion) to acquire Agouron Pharmaceuticals of California.

The deal is one of the largest purchases of a biotech firm by "big pharma", and has implications for British Biotech, the former flagship of the UK sector, whose cancer drug is similar to one of Agouron's most important products.

Like British Biotech's Marimastat, Agouron's AG-3340 is

a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor, an important new class of cancer drugs that aim to stop tumours spreading.

Nick Woolf, analyst with BancBoston Robertson Stephens, said: "It's got to be good news for British Biotech." Others saw the Warner-Lambert move as a validation of the Oxford firm's technology platform.

Shares in British Biotech slipped to a new low of 23p yesterday. Marimastat is about a year ahead of AG-3340, but British Biotech's credibility has been shredded by the overblown claims made for its

drug and doubts about the design of its clinical trials.

Unlike UK biotech compa-

nies, Agouron is already profit-

able thanks to sales of Viracept,

its \$300 million-a-year HIV drug that's the most-prescribed protease inhibitor in the US.

Warner-Lambert is paying about \$60 a share or three times Agouron's 12-month low.

Peter Laing, analyst at SC Se-

curities, suggested Agouron's

decision to sell out to Warner-

Lambert represented an ac-

knowledgement that biotech

companies could not make it

on their own.

	Bank	Bank
Australia S	2.71	2.54
Bank of Eng	30.78	15.12
Belgium F	1.27	1.05
Canada S	2.63	2.442
Cyrus Cpl E	0.3768	0.068
Denmark K	11.27	10.38
Egypt	0.21	0.15
Finnland M	9.90	9.12
France Fr	2.974	2.722
Germany Dm	4.482	4.222
Hong Kong S	1.21	1.12
Iceland	1.27	1.07
Indonesia	1.325	1.325
Israel P	1.1854	1.074
Italy Lira	2.957	2.729
Japan Yen	205.68	186.15
Korea W	0.654	0.695
New Zealand G	3.22	3.01
Norway Kr	12.91	11.97
Netherlands Eng	30.71	27.65
S. Africa R	26.24	22.92
Spain Pes	1.353	1.243
Sweden Kr	2.463	2.245
Turkey Lira	56.24	52.24
USA \$	1.757	1.695

Rates for small denominations, banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates at time of writing.

Sega dreams of £260m bond issue

THE CRAZE for computer games showed no sign of abating yesterday as more than 35 City fund managers turned up to the launch of a 50 billion yen (£260 million) bond issue by Sega, the Japanese video games giant. The move comes amid a boom for computer games and consoles, with machines not as likely to be bought by trendsetters in their mid-twenties as teenagers. Sega's bond issue is designed to raise cash for the launch of its new high-tech Dreamcast games console, which offers high-quality graphics and internet access.

Sega hopes that the Dreamcast will finally end the reign of Sony's PlayStation, and severely dent sales of the Nintendo 64. However, both Sony and Nintendo are also expected to launch new consoles in the near future. Both machines are expected to be as powerful as the Dreamcast. The Dreamcast, which follows Sega's Mega Drive and Saturn consoles, will be launched in Britain later this year. The consoles are expected to cost under £200 each. Representatives from institutions including Merrill Lynch and Prudential turned up to the launch, managed by Nomura. The bonds will be convertible and have a maturity of four years.

Paperchase stake sold

BORDERS, the acquisitive US bookshop chain, has taken a 19.9 per cent in Paperchase, the stationery company spin-off from WH Smith almost three years ago. The company said that Paperchase has concessions in Books Etc. The deal is expected to lead to a full £5 million takeover of Paperchase, which would make millions of pounds for Timothy Melgund, its managing director. Borders is understood to have paid about £1 million for the stake — the same amount that Mr Melgund's team bought the entire company for in June 1996.

Comstrad chief's ban

A SOFTWARE expert whose company sold computer programmes purporting to guarantee success in gambling has been banned from being a director for 13 years. Kevin John Robinson, from Queensland, Australia, ran Comstrad, which was wound up on October 2, 1996, with debts of £457,233, not including customer claims for rebates. The High Court found that Comstrad made serious misrepresentations about its products and that Mr Robinson approved uninsured loans totalling £250,000 to connected companies with reckless disregard for other creditors.

Games Workshop falls

SHARES of Games Workshop, the toy, model and science-fiction games specialist, yesterday fell 11 per cent from 445p to 397.5p as the company admitted that sales had been "below our own high standard". The company reported an 8.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to November 29 of £5.2 million on sales of £35.5 million, up 12 per cent. Earnings per share were 10.9p, up 7.9 per cent from 10.1p. An interim dividend of 3.56p, up from 3.5p, will be paid on April 6.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Pilkington strengthens despite crack in profits

THE devaluation of the Brazilian real has left a £15 million crack in profits at Pilkington, Britain's biggest glassmaker.

In spite of this, the shares rose 5p to 54p as another round of takeover speculation swept the market.

It has been a remarkable week for Pilkington which saw its shares hit a fresh low of 51p on Monday, as the market got wind that the collapse in the Brazilian currency was going to cost the company dearly. Brazil is one of its biggest markets.

Despite the hit, Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, is telling clients to "accumulate" and reckons the concerns over South America are having a disproportionate effect on the share price.

By contrast, City speculators like to remind anyone who will listen that the group is vulnerable to a bid. BTR tried it back in the 1980s and failed. Anyone making a similar move now would have to pay only a fraction of the price. Brokers say Saint Gobain is favoured to make such a move.

Share prices generally were never able to maintain their early pace with Wall Street also squandering an early mark-up. The FTSE 100 index, up 103 points at one stage, closed 9.3 down at 5,876.4. The FTSE 250 index climbed 46.5 to 4,903.3, buoyed by another spate of takeover speculation.

ICL was the best performer among the top 100 companies, jumping 45p to 549p ahead of results next week that are expected to show another downturn in profitability. Traders are taking positions to see if the company maintains the dividend.

Kingfisher was a firm market, adding 42p to 628p after another upbeat trading statement, and Reed International climbed 41p to 571.5p with traders linking it to the latest craze for Internet stocks.

There was a positive response to the latest trading statement from WH Smith with the price climbing 7½p to 597½p. Like-for-like growth during the key Christmas period was up 1 per cent and sales overall showed signs of strengthening.

British Telecom dropped 26p to 917p as word went round that ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, had been telling clients to switch into Vodafone, up 20p to 11.52p. Only last week, Hoare set a target price of 116 for Vodafone.



WH Smith saw a positive response to its latest trading statement with the share price climbing 7½p to 597½p

Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, has joined the Pearson bandwagon and initiated coverage of the shares by setting a target price of £15. The price fell 10p to £13.81 after hitting a high on Tuesday.

The speculators were again giving chase in Laird Group with the price, 2½p higher at 199p, closing below its best of the day after touching 212½p.

There has been a rash of corporate activity among the automotive engineers this week with LucasVarity, 2½p lighter at 231½p, facing the prospect of two US bidders, while Adwest Automotive has already accepted an offer of 150p a share from Dura Automotive of the US.

The speculators claim Laird is being stalked by Fullerton, another US automotive compo-

nents group. Word is Fullerton would have to offer in excess of 250p a share for the bid to succeed.

Dr Alan Weeks, chairman of Weeks Group, has splashed out £675,000 acquiring 300,000 shares at 225p. It takes his holding to 38.1 million, or 26.67 per cent. The wife of director Peter Griffith has bought 225,000 shares at 225p. Weeks was unchanged at 216p.

Peterhouse Group was steady at 107p, as David Jackson, chairman, spent £216,000 topping up his stake. He has bought 20,000 shares at 108p, taking his total holding to 1.97 million, or 7.48 per cent. Philip Brierley, a director, has sold 100,000 shares at 107p, reducing his stake to 1.07 million, or 4.07 per cent.

Elsewhere in the construction sector, Ashfield Group shaded 4p to 169p. Henry Staunton, a director, has acquired 25,000 shares at 171p. He now accounts for 45,000 shares, or less than 1 per cent.

Shares of Waste Recycling were suspended at 456p pending completion of the merger with Yorkshire Environmental Global Waste Management.

AIM-listed Systems Integrated Research seemed to enjoy a late reaction to Tuesday's interim results with the price surging 8½p to 19½p in a thin market.

Recognition Systems Group fell 3p to 124p as the rump of its recent rights issue was placed in the marketplace.

A total of 3.5 million shares were placed at 10p each.

■ GILT-EDGED: The bond market recovered an opening fall to close mixed on the day with longer-dated issues enjoying modest gains, while shorts were left nursing small falls.

Dealers said prices fluctuated in a narrow range with interest concentrated on the auction of index-linked stock. A total of £450 million of Treasury index-linked 2024 was covered a comfortable 1.83 times.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 10p to £120.11 as the total number of contracts completed reached 29,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 finished 3p up at £107.84, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 ended 3p lower at £15.53.

■ NEW YORK: Shares were mixed in morning trading as an opening surge lost steam amid profit-taking. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 26.00 at 9,298.58.

THE water companies struggled to make headway in a falling market.

Hyder rose 2½p to 814p, Thames 1p to £10.80, and Yorkshire Water 2p to 52p. But there were losses for Anglian, 4½p to 768p, Severn Trent, 5p to 940p, and United Utilities, 8p to 773p.

Just over a year ago, the utilities were the darlings of the stock market. Their lucrative dividends and the constant flurry of corporate activity kept the pot boiling. Now investors are set to follow.

Laird reckons the upside for the sector is about 25 per cent and finds both Anglian Water and United Utilities as the best stocks in the sector to follow.

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Here is a true story. Once upon a time, there was an ageing business tycoon, who built a huge corporation from small beginnings. Along this hard road, he had become a fearless advocate of free market forces. He had also learned to count pennies.

His female secretary, who had worked for him many years, seemed content with her modest salary: she was likeable fellow and the job was exciting. Her boss, a man of generous spirit but who liked to vet costs with a magnifying glass, did not see why any other secretary in his organisation should be paid more.

Other top secretarial jobs soon became hard to fill. Even routine posts increasingly stayed vacant. Middle managers, who had to keep the show on the road, resorted to temporary staff supplied by agencies at much higher cost. They became *de facto* permanent.

The relevant trade union, which had a decent shop, saw that its power was being eroded. It set up its own agency, which became the main labour conduit and a modest

Blair dreams in pay wonderland

but useful channel for would-be immigrants from many lands.

Only when the great man passed on could managers fully unravel the whole complex and super-expensive network, at great industrial relations cost. This doughty champion of markets failed to grasp how the laws of supply and demand worked in his own office.

This myopic madness now afflicts our own Government, at huge and growing cost to taxpayers. Ministers are never happier than when they land the primary of market forces. Amazingly, however, are deemed to stop at the traffic lights north of Whitehall, by some magnificent illusion, what governs the outside world does not apply to government. It is incongruous, so it does not exist.

Yesterday, this illusion surfaced at the Department of Agriculture, where Nick Brown proposed a commercial poll tax to fund a Food Standards Agency. Did he consult the small business minister? Did he see that he would favour giant corporations? Did he assume that supply was impervious to cost?

Gordon Brown provides a more notorious example. Persuading more people to save for private pensions has such a high priority that the Treasury cannot resist meddling with the efforts of the Department of Social Security. Yet the Chancellor blithely taxed pension funds by an extra £5 billion a year now and much more later, providing the greatest single disincentive to pension saving of modern times.

The most malign characteristic of new Labour is the assumption that ordinary people are ignorant and stupid and will not notice, if wise leaders tell us what to do. Ordinary people are not as ignorant as ministers like to think in things that matter personally. We tend to notice, for instance, if the job down the road pays twice as much.

This official suspension of the laws of supply and demand was never more glaring than when Tony Blair lectured the public sector over pay on Tuesday. The National Health Service is said to be

short of 13,000 nurses, in spite of efforts to recruit cheap labour from abroad. There are similar though lesser shortages among teachers and in the armed forces.

The logical cause is that they are not offered enough pay. Yes, concerted leaks tell us that nurses at entry level can expect a rise of 11 per cent, but nurses as a whole are supposedly to be offered 4.7 per cent, which is less than last year's rise in money output per head, and most others a bit less than that.

Mr Blair, juking the inconvenient Jaws, evidently takes the line that the problem is one of morale. So he told a audience from caring groups that their sense of public duty could be "awe-inspiring".

"What made you choose this career?" he said "is what made me go into politics – a chance to serve and make a difference. It is not just a job for you, it is a vocation".

Thanks for the praise, how about some cash, union leaders understandably responded.

What nonsense. Vocation is not limited to the public sector. Even rich barristers can be dedicated.

Thousands of nurses care about the patients and not the money, in the tradition of Florence Nightingale. They would nurse for less than they are paid. Sadly, the National Health Service needs many more thousands than that. The laws of supply and demand suggest that the price of labour is set by the amount needed to attract the last one you need to make up the numbers, rather than those who are in for love.

Market conditions have changed since nursing was one of the few professions open to women. Perversely, it is degraded as a career. Ms. Nightingale was no sweetie-pie. In the sexual caste sys-

tem she inspired, matrons at the apex of nursing ruled hospitals. Today, hospitals are run by administrators, often male accountants. Women can do better elsewhere.

Thanks to Mr Blair's idealistic moratorium on economic laws, nurses who need more income to pay taxes levied on low pay are often better off quitting the NHS, signing up with an agency and going back to the NHS as a temp. Many have done so, helping hospitals to ratchet up their pay bills.

While the Home Office spends huge sums of our money locking up some would-be economic migrants, the NHS is happily spending just as much to recruit many thousands more from the rest of Europe and far beyond. Has anyone told Jack Straw? Perhaps those countries have been generating ludicrous surpluses of trained nurses. Perhaps we are just exploiting their forethought.

Of one thing you may be sure. The longer ministers continue to insist that laws of supply and demand do not apply to them, the more it will cost us in taxes.

Times they are a-changing, and so are the trade unions

The days of beer and sandwiches at No 10 could be making a comeback, writes Christine Buckley

Today, with the Fairness at Work Bill, the Government will deliver the most wide-ranging package of employment rights for a generation. But the organisations that have long campaigned for these rights, the trade unions, are seeing their membership falling.

It is a trend that has not been arrested by the election of a Labour Government nor its promised restoration of many union rights. Last year, members of TUC affiliated unions fell from 6.9 million to 6.8 million and from 31 per cent of the workforce to 30 per cent. At its peak – in 1980 – union membership stood at 12 million. Further numbers will be lost this year as the recession in manufacturing and textiles claims more victims.

The fall is not a shock to many unions. The days when they held a nation to ransom – such as during the Miners strikes in 1972 and 1974 – the winter of discontent in 1978/79 – have long gone.

Trade union leaders are no longer invited to Downing Street for beer and sandwiches. They realised that the workplace has changed and now they are attempting to adjust.

One of the largest factors in the fall is that manufacturing – a traditional stronghold for unions – has declined. Britain now has one of the smallest sections of the workforce employed in manufacturing in the European Union. Big employers, such as the power industries and telecommunications, have been privatised, cutting countless jobs.

More people are employed on short contracts, part-time work and zero-hour contracts. Personal contracts have reduced the role of unions to set pay levels. More work is subcontracted, franchised or outsourced and more people are working from home.

The culture of the workplace has changed hugely. Fewer people believe in jobs for life; more are willing to change jobs to progress careers. The protective function of unions

will always be an important part of their role, but it is becoming less so. Some older workers remain in unions through sentiment. Young employees do not necessarily feel that pull.

Declining union membership has reduced the organisations' incomes. Squeezed for cash, some have merged. Talks are being held across a number of unions. Soon, members will be asked to vote on the three-way merger of Bifu, UNifi and the NatWest Staff association.

But, frustratingly, many merged unions have found their membership has also fallen, with workers feeling they are no longer part of a relevant organisation. Some complain that massive unions that sprawl across a variety of industries are empowering more for their leaders than members.

The solution to the falling union ranks would therefore seem not to be in retrenchment. Transformation is more likely to be the key.

Tony Cooper, general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, believes unions must behave more like businesses. They need to find their markets and offer a greater range of services. There is no reason, he thinks, why a union should not operate like the AA, for example, in order to build up numbers. Members could choose from various lev-



Old school: Len Murray was TUC General Secretary from 1973-94

els of service, from a basic provision to an all-frills option.

"Unions need to be more competitive, and more relevant," Cooper says. "We need to offer services that people want. There is a decline in membership that will continue unless we have something to offer."

The AEEU, one of Britain's bigger unions with 678,135 members, has made one of the biggest moves into providing additional services. Last year it launched the first stakeholder pension scheme with

Friends Provident. It was designed to give members in companies without pension plans an opportunity to join a scheme that had the benefits of a large organisation. The AEEU is also looking at extending its legal services to members' families and could operate a seabatic system for members to do voluntary services overseas.

Ken Jackson, general secretary, says: "There has been a big shift away from traditional employment and we have got

to fundamentally rethink the way we go about things. There is an opportunity to increase membership with the Fairness at Work Bill but we have to operate in ways that move the unions into the 21st century."

John Edmonds, the GMB's leader, is optimistic about recruitment prospects. He believes another two million can easily be added if recruitment officers are vigorous. But, because of changing patterns in the workplace, new recruits may come in ones and twos rather than the wholesale addition of a workplace.

Some of his recruiting officers are on the youth trail. Last year the GMB went to 16 music festivals and have found a rallying cry in the minimum wage. Young people, aggrieved that the Government has imposed a reduced rate for younger workers, have become more interested in the union movement, says Mr Edmonds.

He also sees the fluctuating nature of work as an opportunity for recruitment rather than an obstacle. "People are becoming more suspicious of managers. They expect to be treated worse by managers in the UK than in any other country in Europe. They are turning to unions for protection."

The TUC is devoting much of its campaign resources to a recruitment drive. Its organising academy, which was set up at a cost of £2 million to train recruitment officers, is also placing much emphasis on targeting young members.

The TUC is keen to reposition itself fully as a modern force in the employment arena.

But some of its constituent unions do not always portray the same picture. Unions have tended to be inherently conservative groups, disliking radical change.

Those who want to modernise the movement are frustrated by the attitude of more traditional barons, complaining that they behave just like barons, pinning for the old days when they could bring a company – or indeed a government – to its knees with strikes. They say that while John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, is one of the most forward-looking and realistic union leaders, his hands are largely tied by some members of the governing body.

The TUC shares Mr Edmonds's optimism that once the Fairness at Work rights are in place and working then unions will be buoyed by new interest from potential members.

He also sees the fluctuating nature of work as an opportunity for recruitment rather than an obstacle. "People are becoming more suspicious of managers. They expect to be treated worse by managers in the UK than in any other country in Europe. They are turning to unions for protection."

The unions, while welcoming the reforms of the Fairness at Work legislation, have criticised the Government for watering down the original proposals. They complain that some ministers wanted to distance the Government from the union movement to a ridiculous degree.

But the frostiness of the Government to its traditional paymasters is not just new Labour dogma to keep the unions at arm's length. It also stems from a desire by the Government not to be closely associated with a losing once-powerful body that is diminishing.

However, this is a Government sensitive to public opinion and trends almost to the point of neurosis. If the unions were to reinvigorate themselves effectively, they would probably find themselves more warmly welcomed by hitherto indifferent ministers. The era of beer and sandwiches could yet return.

For traditional businesses, portals can be extremely helpful in gaining a presence online. For online retailers and information providers, signing a joint venture deal with a company such as AltaVista can be highly valuable. After all, millions of Internet users already trust the brands of the big three portals and visit their sites almost every time they go online.

Although many Internet Service Providers (such as America Online and, most recently, Dixons) are eager to

set up their own proprietary portals, they have not yet managed to significantly dent the power of AltaVista et al. Most traditional media companies have also failed to create successful alternative portals.

The likes of Yahoo! may face a tough fight, but it is looking increasingly likely that traditional media companies will simply decide to sign more joint ventures with established portals instead of competing head-to-head with them.

Some of the world's largest telecoms and technology companies already appear to believe this, with At Home last week buying Excite for \$6.7 billion, and Microsoft this week signing a far-reaching joint venture with AltaVista.

This is still obviously plenty of consolidation to come, but

THE ICE BOX
THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

all the evidence so far suggests that Compaq's idea to float AltaVista is a good one.

□ IT WILL soon become possible to send e-mails from anywhere in the world thanks to a new satellite Internet service from British Telecom. The service, from BT Aeronautical & Maritime (BTAM), will offer free subscription, and be aimed initially at the energy, shipping and media sectors.

□ DIGITAL ONE, the digital radio consortium led by GWR, owner of Classic FM, this week advertised three new channels for tender. Companies interested in producing programmes for any of the new digital channels – which include soft adult contemporary music, plays, books and comedy, and all-night dance music – have until February 12 to register.

CHRIS AYRES

Deep water

A TALE of woe from Blakeney Management, the aggressive fund linked with George Soros, in a circular to investors apologising for the non-arrival of an update on how the business is performing.

In December, just two days after Blakeney narrowly failed to throw out half the board of Lourbo Africa, explains Miles Morland, the Blakeney boss: "our upstairs neighbours in Chelsea Wharf insisted in having a new pop-on plumbing joint. The main feature of this is that it pops off as soon as the plumber goes home," he adds.

He ends on a positive note. The next update will be out by mid-February – "unless we suffer a plague of frogs in the interim".

NORTHERN ROCK chief executive Leo Flinn's first taste of media stardom yesterday was not a success. There being no proper phone line at ABN Amro, the broker, the bureaucrats at Radio 4 insisted he conduct an interview in the radio car, the favoured soapbox of many a Cabinet minister. His first attempt was marred by technical problems. These solved, the car was moved on by technical experts.

Cigarettes... perfume... shares...



Oh, Carol

IT WOULD be uncharitable to name names, but Carol and Mary at least know who they are. I have a chain e-mail that details probably the most incompetent attempt ever by a headteacher to poach staff.

It begins with an artful request to PA Consulting for the name of a senior marketing manager in life sciences. Carol, who took care not to reveal that she worked for one of the biggest headhunters in the planet, was directed to Carlton Communications, as media gossip has it?

It is indeed. "I was interested to hear what the job was all about," Parry says. "I'm not actually looking." Instead More, now owned by Clear Channel, a huge American corporation, is hoping to

More or less

SO WHAT of Roger Parry, unstoppable chief executive of More Group, the outdoor poster business sold to the Americans last summer? Is it true he went for the chief executive's job at Carlton Communications, as media gossip has it?

It is indeed. "I was interested to hear what the job was all about," Parry says. "I'm not actually looking." Instead More, now owned by Clear Channel, a huge American corporation, is hoping to



Sandwiches, cake and tea cannot tempt Roger Parry

MMC INVITES EVIDENCE ON THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF CITYFLYER EXPRESS LIMITED BY BRITISH AIRWAYS PLC

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, DTI, has asked the MMC to inquire into the proposed acquisition by British Airways plc of Cityflyer Express Limited.

He has made this reference because of competition concerns in respect of the market for air services. The MMC will examine all aspects of the merger in considering whether it may be expected to operate against the public interest.

Anyone wishing to submit evidence or obtain a copy of the full terms of reference should write to: The Reference Secretary (RA/CITYFLYER), Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT by 15th February 1999.

FOCUSING ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST



Commodity prices to fall further as stockpiles grow

Miners ignore cutback calls

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

ANALYSTS attacked the international mining industry yesterday for its failure to curb production despite a sharp fall in commodity prices.

Speaking after the release of another series of strong quarterly production figures by Rio Tinto, the worldwide mining giant, analysts said the industry needed "leadership and discipline."

They pointed to increasing stockpiles on the London Metal Exchange (LME) as evidence of the miners' refusal to address the growing burden of oversupply and gave warning that many commodity prices could have further to fall.

Rio highlighted the industry's predicament with sharply higher production of copper, coal, gold and aluminium in the three months to December 31, 1998.

The figures, with the exception of iron ore and borates, were slightly ahead of City expectations. Coal production soared 53 per cent in the quarter compared with the previous corresponding period to 34.5 million tonnes.

This stemmed from last year's purchase of Jacobs Ranch mine in America as well as higher production at its Indonesian and Australian operations.

Gold mined jumped 60 per cent to 866,000 ounces and copper mined rose 27 per cent to 238,100 tonnes.

Aluminiun production for

the quarter was up 5 per cent to 131,700 tonnes but the impact of the Asian economic crisis on Japanese steel mills resulted in iron ore output sliding 4 per cent to 13.2 million tonnes.

Nick Wilson, an analyst with BT Alex Brown, said the growing tonnages were a glaring example of the pressure being exerted on commodity prices by oversupply.

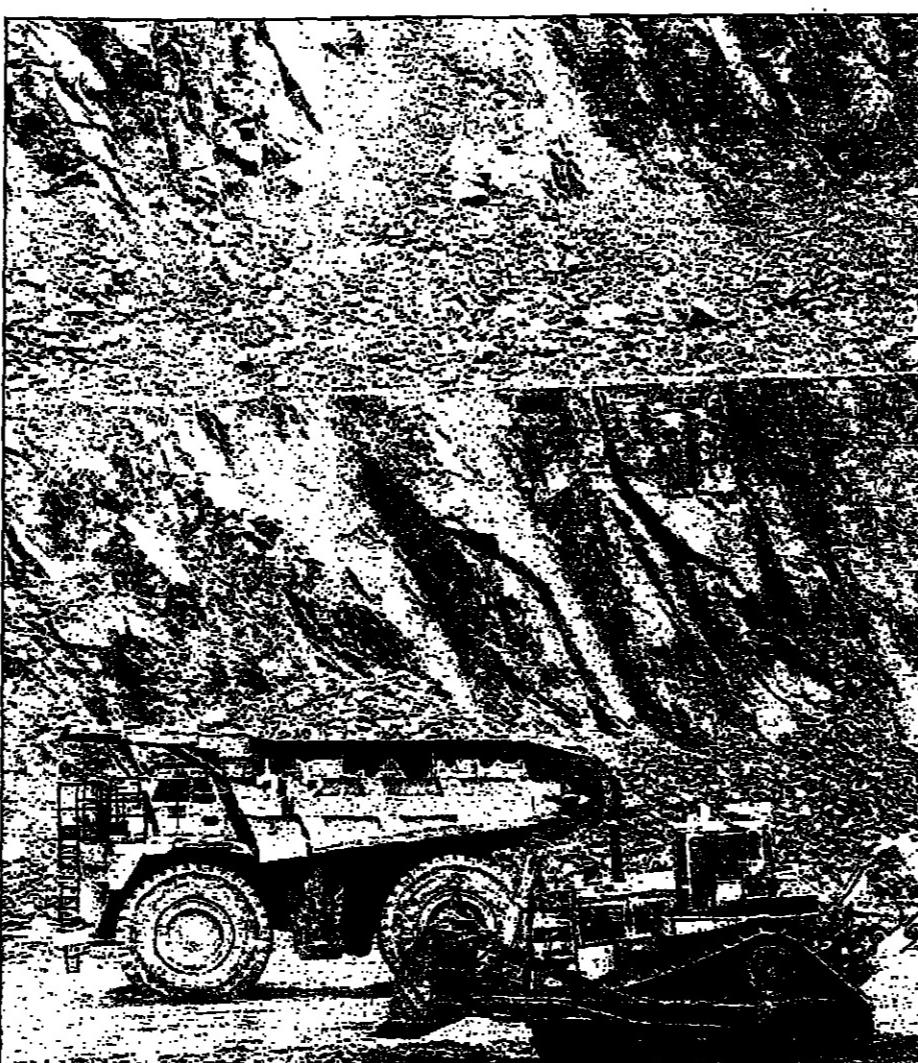
"In certain markets Rio is big enough to have an impact on price," Mr Wilson said. "The problem is, most miners still believe there is somebody further up the cost curve who ought to be shutting their mine first."

He said mining companies still believed metal prices would return to their long-term averages but their appetites for production growth were delaying the recovery.

Russell Skirrow, global mining analyst with Merrill Lynch, said most metal prices were below analysts' forecasts and further asset write-downs were almost certain in the impending round of profit reports.

"One tonne of marginal production in an oversupplied market has an impact on price," Mr Skirrow said.

"It could be that it is better for shareholders not to increase production, but the companies say to hell with prices; let's try to force our competition out of the market!"



Analysts say the growing tonnage figures are evidence of the pressure on prices of oversupply

Disney suffers drop in first-quarter profits

BY SAEED SHAH

WALT DISNEY, the entertainment group, saw profits drop 18 per cent in the first quarter, hampered by high costs of broadcasting American football, lower ratings for ABC's news programmes and slower video sales.

Disney's results were below Wall Street estimates. The decline came despite strong box-office showings from *The Waterboy*, *A Bug's Life* and *Empire of the Sun*. There was also rising attendance at its theme parks.

Disney's net profit was \$622 million (£375 million), or 30

cents per share, in the three months to December 31, down from \$755 million, or 37 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier. Revenue rose 4 per cent to \$6.59 billion.

The quarter's results were boosted by the acquisition of a 43 per cent interest in Infospace, the Internet search engine.

The bright spot was Disney's theme parks and resorts division, where operating profits rose 17 per cent to \$335 million.

The results came two weeks after Disney announced that chief executive Michael Eisner's bonus for 1998 was cut by

NBM to oust Blockleys directors

NATIONAL Building Materials yesterday requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting of Blockleys, the builder's merchant, to allow shareholders to vote on the removal of the directors and their replacement by the NBM board (Saeed Shah writes).

The company said it now speaks for 44.74 per cent of NBM shares and has received irrevocable undertakings from Eagle Investment Trust, Telford Investments and Christopher Evans to vote in favour of the restructuring.

AIM-listed NBM last month launched a £13 million hostile bid for Blockleys which is listed on the main market.

Perot to sell 7% stake in flotation

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

ROSS PEROT, the Texan billionaire who stood in two US presidential elections as an independent candidate, is floating Perot Systems on the stock market.

Mr Perot, who owns a 45 per cent interest, will sell a 7 per cent stake in his \$1 billion (£606 million) information network company, which counts East Midlands Electricity among its biggest customers.

Mr Perot, 68, was founder of EDS, the outsourcing group. He sold EDS to General Motors for \$2.5 billion in 1984 and joined the GM

board in Detroit for two years but quickly fell out with other directors.

Mr Perot set up Perot Systems as a rival to EDS. Perot Systems is regarded as a highly successful start-up with 30 per cent revenue growth last year.

Mr Perot's Wall Street bankers hope to sell the Perot Systems shares on the basis that it will one day grow to the size of EDS, currently worth \$25 billion.

The trend towards outsourcing is expected to continue as companies take advantage of new technology.

Firms can learn as they pay

Companies can turn the new corporate tax regime to their advantage, says Tony Elgood

Only once in a generation is the tax system fundamentally reformed — or so went the opening line of Gordon Brown's 1998 Budget speech.

Large UK companies will soon get a taste of this fundamental reform because their first corporation tax payment under the new quarterly tax payment regime will be due soon. A few have already paid.

The new regime requires "large companies" (broadly, those with taxable profits above £1.5 million — this limit being divided by the number of companies in the worldwide group) to make quarterly tax payments in the seventh, tenth, thirteenth and sixteenth months after the start of their accounting period.

Historically, companies have fought shy of interest on overdue tax and tended to overpay. They need to assess whether this still makes sense.

The new payment rules come amid other tax changes. Corporate Tax Self Assessment (CTSA) has extra responsibilities and risks for companies, especially ones with cross-border interests. The Government's "Spend to Save" initiative is making itself felt, and there is concern from compa-



Tony Elgood says upfront tax may help firms to gain insight

nies (which may not always be justified) that the Revenue is becoming more aggressive.

So what should companies do? Most obviously, they need to think through the new payment regime and be geared up to decide how much to pay each quarter. What is the attitude to interest? How is penal-

y interest, at twice base plus 4 per cent, to be avoided?

At a higher level, the changes are leading companies to look at tax strategies, at approach to tax risk and at how the tax function supports business aims. Companies must also understand where tax risks lie. With CTSA, if a Rev-

ue inquiry finds a return to have been wrong, substantial tax-gated penalties can apply. Investing in identifying tax risk is step one in the "self-policing" that protects against extra tax charges, penalties and costly Revenue inquiries. The taxman emphasises that "voluntary compliance" is in companies' interests.

The Revenue is using data extraction techniques with powerful software that can identify problem areas in seconds. Companies should consider using such methods to see where they may claim too much, or too little, tax relief.

These changes will probably involve more resource, process improvement, and more use of technology or advisers. Advances in technology also make tax outsourcing well worth looking at again.

This need not be "running just to stand still". The necessity of quarterly forecasts for tax payment purposes should encourage improvement of tax forecasting and reporting systems. Companies that use this to gain "real-time" understanding of drivers of their tax cost, and capacity to react to tax opportunities, can turn the "burden" of quarterly forecasting into significant benefit in managing their tax position.

Tony Elgood is a senior PricewaterhouseCoopers tax partner specialising in corporate tax management

As if VAT rules weren't complicated enough . . .

Nevelle Trout is going to be a busy man. He is the chap at Customs and Excise who is about to be inundated with comments after the publication last week of Customs' first foray into the use of a General Anti-Avoidance Rule. This took the form of what they, rather inelegantly, call "a mini-GAAR". As suggested when the Inland Revenue put out its consultation document last year, Customs is thinking of having separate GAARs for specific areas where it thinks avoidance should be cracked down upon. It rather takes away the point of the rule being "general", but never mind.

The first of these deals with schemes within the construction industry, which, in VAT terms, is one of the most complex of all the ludicrous entanglements that the administration of VAT has got itself into. For the purpose of deciding whether the proposed mini-GAAR is a good thing or a bad thing, it is best to ignore the technical arguments about construction and VAT.

Originally the reason for the idea of mini-GAARs to deal with VAT was blamed on Brussels. European law would make such a system the only way in which Customs could legally work, said boffins deep within Customs and Excise. VAT is, after all, a Europe-wide tax, and we are all supposed to be moving in harmony on any VAT issues.

However, that seems to have been abandoned. The thinking behind the document last week is simple. The point where tax avoidance becomes tax evasion is difficult to pin down. One man's tax evasion is another man's cheap bottle of beer bought in Calais, and all that.

At a stroke, Customs and Excise has decided on a method that makes spotting what is, and what is illegal very simple. In future, if this document comes to fruition, all that would matter would be if Customs and Excise said that something was illegal. If it said so, then it would be so and the fine would be as follows . . .

Overnight, any thoughts of concepts of freedom under the law and all those principles that make the life of a tax gatherer so difficult, would be abandoned.

Or, as the document puts it: "When this Schedule applies to a VAT avoidance transaction, the same consequences follow, for VAT purposes as if the corresponding normal transaction had been carried out." But

what is this puzzling concept of "the corresponding normal transaction" and who decides whether a transaction is avoidance? The document provides an answer immediately. "The 'corresponding normal transaction' means the transaction that would have been adopted if VAT avoidance was not a consideration," it says. And who decides which theoretical or real transaction is the normal one or the avoidance one? Customs and Excise. And how would they know?

Because one transaction would bring in less VAT revenue than the other. The definition of VAT evasion is reduced simply to one of a monetary test. If there are two routes that raise less revenue for Customs and Excise, then you are a tax evader and the full weight of the courts will duly descend on you.

Any route that saved you VAT would land you under the GAAR. The hysteria over tax revenues is truly producing some ridiculous contortions to make the principles of tax gathering fit the politicians' desperate need to find more and more tax revenue.

For example, a company could decide to reorganise its various office buildings to make its organisation more efficient. One side-effect of this could be that less, rather than more, VAT is due. The Customs and Excise argument would be that your decision was not a normal decision. Or, would put it: "The benighted taxpayer feels that he has to go by the least efficient tax route in case he is sprung up."

Back at Customs and Excise, they would not understand this at all. What they would problem is that they have at last cracked the code.

They misunderstand. What they will have done, should a series of mini-GAARs be hugely over-complex tax into something that is infinitely more complicated, if that is possible. Any dispute is going to finish up at the VAT tribunal. Even more tax law will be spawned.

Comments on the document are required to be in by March 1. Mr Trout ought to indent now for a king-size knacker in which

Call-up for local heroes

DAME Sheila Masters, who, in a few months, will become the English ICA's first woman president, will also be its millennial president. This sort of thing requires a bold initiative or two and you will not be surprised that several are on the way. Masters aims to convince the nation that everyone ought to be an accountant. Under the slogan "Everybody Counts", the project will encourage accountants everywhere to rise up to show how important

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

chartered accountants are in the community. Institute members will be expected to advise and encourage all manner of community projects and to visit schools to convince the youth of today that accountancy has a useful role next century. It is a worthy initiative. But you can see why Masters has given a bit of an uphill task.

Winner's move

After ten glorious years, the Association of Chartered Certi-

fied Accountants has dropped its Accountancy Journalist of the Year awards. This has obviously proved devastating to the winner of the trade paper section in last year's awards. Jon Bunn, who was the illustrious news editor at *Accountancy Age* in those days, has given up his green eye-shade and spike. He has jumped tracks and can now be found in the media relations department of PricewaterhouseCoopers. There he is looking after assur-

ance and business advisory services. Or what you and I would call audit.

Fraud-busters

ANYONE coming within a few yards of Douglas Llambias can be pretty sure of some noisy advice. The veteran English ICA council member, recruitment consultant and fixer of accountancy mergers, is not one to shirk what he sees as his duty. Now he has written to the Chancellor of the Ex-

chequer offering to fight fraud within the EU. Several years ago, he helped to set up an effective panel, the Accountants' Fraud Panel, to provide police in Britain with accountancy expertise. Now he is offering to do the same in Europe. "We need good people who like being Sherlock Holmes," he said, adding that the work is "exciting as long as you don't get bumped off". Llambias's only problem is the Chancellor. "Since sending him the letter, I have been deafened by the silence," he reports.

ROBERT BRUCE

client. One side-effect of this could be that less, rather than more, VAT is due. The Customs and Excise argument would be that your decision was not a normal decision. Or, would put it: "The benighted taxpayer feels that he has to go by the least efficient tax route in case he is sprung up."

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Bargains of the week: from a trip to the historic sites of Lebanon to a Valentine's break in Dublin or birdwatching in Nepal

A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices

THE cast of Oklahoma! led by Maureen Lipman has just taken up residence at the Lyceum Theatre after a sell-out run at the National and good seats and a night at a leading West End hotel are now available from Theatrebreaks from £108. Details: 01904 679999.

COTTAGES sleeping four on a farm in North Devon are available for £167 for a week from February 13 with Farm and Cottage Holidays. Details: 01273 479698.

DUBLIN, always lively, sometimes romantic, is available over Valentine's weekend with Thomas Cook Holidays. Fly from Heathrow on February 12 and enjoy two nights'

B&B at the Arlington Hotel for £201. Details: 01733 418188.

A CYCLE made for two comes as a free optional extra on a Valentine's weekend at Hallmark House Hotel, Cheltenham. For those on four wheels, The Romantic Road is offered. Dinner, B&B for two nights & B&B with return flights from Gatwick cost from £135 with Crystal Premier Cities while three nights at the elegant Hotel Ambassador cost from £245 with flights. Champagne is included for stays between February 8 and 15. Details: 0181 241 5040.

JERSEY for Valentine's weekend for £139 with flights from Gatwick or Southampton are on offer from Jersey Travel Service. Fly on February 13 or 14, and enjoy two nights with dinner, B&B. Details: 0181 891 6020.

TAKE the catamaran from Weymouth as an alternative on February 13 and a week's B&B at the Mayfair, Jersey, with an indoor pool and gym, costs £130 with discounts for children from Modern Hotels. Details: 01534 59529.

SINGING for pleasure programmes every morning and evening are harmonised with afternoon walks on a midweek break at Grasmere in the Lake District with Countrywide Holidays. The price for four nights' full board in a guest house from February 15 is £164. Details: 0161 446 2226.

MUSIC from folk to classical, is the focus of the Venice Carnival which runs from February 5 to 15, though masked balls and street theatre also play a part. Lumi Poly has a variety of offers to the city with, for example, three nights B&B at a canal-side hotel and flight from Gatwick on February 7 costing £432. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

HALF-TERM week in February (whichever one it is for your children) is available as a choice of villas in the Algarve with The Villa Agency. Prices start from £175 for a week in a property sleeping four in Albufeira; flights and car hire can also be arranged. Details: 01273 747811.

CROSS-COUNTRY skiing is a more energetic suggestion for Valentine's Day and you can do this with Headwater on

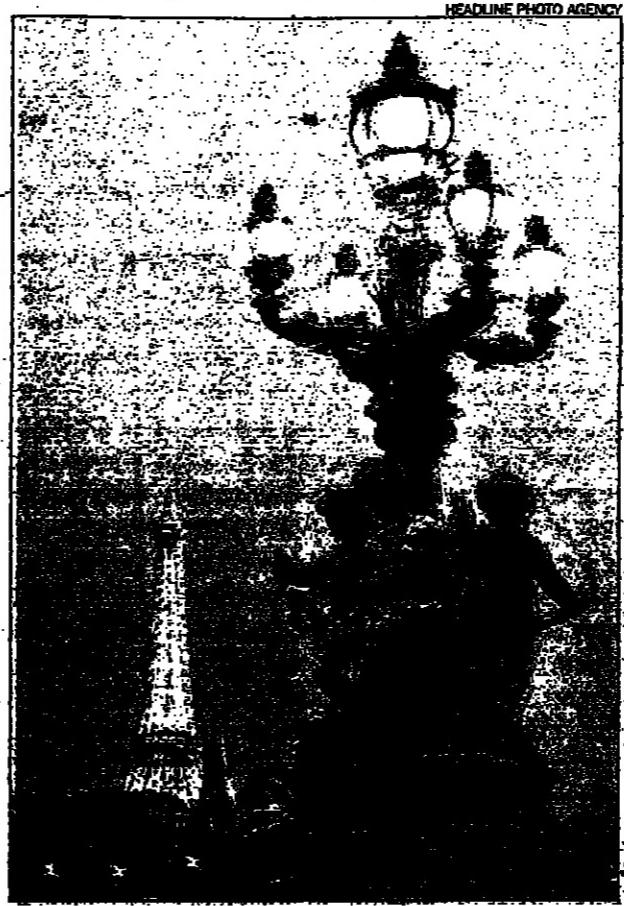
a week's holiday from February 13 in the western Auvergne, France. Full board in a family-run hotel with pool plus ski hire and pass cost from £348 if you drive down, or from £539 if you fly then take the train. Details: 01606 813367.

INSTANT winter sun should be available if you fly on Tuesday from Gatwick to Majorca, where a week's self-catering in Palma costs only £99 with First Choice. Details: 0870-750 0100.

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Valentine's weekend in the city of romance need not be costly

Valentine's destination and Prestige Holidays is offering a three-night self-catering break on the island from £399 with flights from Gatwick. Details: 01425 480400.

THE ravages of civil war still evident in Beirut will be overshadowed by the glories of a previous age on an introductory trip to Lebanon with Bales Worldwide. The temples of Baalbek, city of Byblos and the historic sites of Tyre and Sidon are included in the week's holiday, costing £499 with B&B and a flight from Heathrow on February 21. Details: 01306 876881.

SYDNEY for a fortnight for £651 with return flights from Gatwick is a near unbeatable bargain from Australia's Great Escape. The offer is limited, however, to a departure on March 2 and the price includes accommodation vouchers. Details: 0171-534 0202.

FEBRUARY is a popular month for visiting Orlando and Disneyworld, especially over half term, and Jetset has some bargain fly-drive deals. Return flights and a fortnight's car hire are on offer from £199, with Virgin flights available for an extra £100. Accommodation, from family hotels to luxury homes, can be arranged. Details: 01342 312033.

PINK coral sand and delightful scenery should make Bermuda a suitably romantic

See *The Times* on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

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Viagra for the mind — and Will

NEW MOVIES: James Christopher sees Paltrow shine and Fiennes smoulder in *Shakespeare in Love*

One of the great grudges luvvies have against the film industry is that it steals the lifeblood of theatre and gives back next to nothing. Then along comes a film like John Madden's *Shakespeare in Love* with the most thrilling, sentimental and hilarious plug for the stage that I have ever seen, and suddenly luvvies the world over are delighted. This, presumably, is because half of them seem to be cast in it.

There is plenty to be thrilled about. If you don't look deeper than the words "romantic comedy" you'll find a rippling yarn about a struggling, upstart scribe called William Shakespeare with serious quill problems: sexual as well as ink. Not only is he suffering chronic writer's block, but he hasn't had sex since he ditched his wife in Stratford months before. "It's like trying to pick a lock with a wet herring," says Joseph Fiennes's depressed Will, limply throwing himself on the couch of Antony Sher's quack psychiatrist.

A muse is what Will needs. Someone to get the juices flowing so he can start his epic, *Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter*, for Geoffrey Rush's seedy theatre owner, Henslowe. Inspiration is at hand. During the audition from hell with the usual stutters, dwarfs and drunks, Will bumps into Gwyneth Paltrow's rich, stage-struck Viola, disguised as Tom Kent, who duly lands the role of Romeo. Their secret affair blooms through moustaches and tights, and Will suddenly finds his first major masterpiece flowing from his quill.

The magic of this beefy romance is that the play not only maps their love-life, but races ahead to plot their destiny. But the sly genius of the film is the way the writers, Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard bring a thoroughly modern sensibility to the daily pitfalls of theatre folk in the Renaissance. It's the *Blackadder/Monty Python* factor. The mean streets of Southwark are close, mucky and claustrophobic. People are routinely splattered with pots of urine. Feuding playhouses fight for the same impoverished, plague-ridden audiences. Writers are two a penny. And the Thames is crawling with ferrymen who say "I had that Christopher Marlowe in my boat once."

Colin Firth is the only real villain. Wonderfully grumpy, he is naked self-interest buttoned into the dastardly Lord Wesset, who has earmarked Paltrow's hand and fortune with the blessing of the Queen. "Too late" mutters Judi Dench's terrifying monarch



when half-a-dozen fur cloaks hit the puddle she has just waded through on her way to her coach.

The irreverent joy of *Shakespeare in Love* is that it's knocked into shape by a series of accidents. This is vintage Stoppard. Normally, as in *Arcadia*, he places some jaded scholar at this end of the millennium to field these accidents and wrap them in some sort of academic fallacy. Here the fielders are us and, no, we don't want to do any intellectual stretches because we like our greatest cultural icon to look like the foolish, infatuated human being we hope he was.

There are romantic niggles. Is Paltrow more infatuated with the poetry than the man? "I love you beyond poetry" is the most insincere line in the script. Yet, dressed as the vulnerable Romeo, or undressed as the sensuous Viola, Paltrow delivers the most convincing and mesmerising performance of the film. Fiennes's Will is magnificently moody. The studied tilt of the head, the hairy glimpse of cleavage, the smouldering stare are things few would dare to attempt even in the privacy of their own bathroom. But he doesn't sink many boreholes of illumination into the Bard.

For all the chest-beating about theatre, this is ultimately a victory for film. Director John Madden may have iron-

cently set out to martyr a few sacred theatrical cows. What he actually ends up with is a sophisticated 16th-century spin on Robert Altman's Hollywood satire, *The Player*. If more films were as revealing about the haphazard magic of theatre I'm not sure there would be much theatre left to watch.

Despite the lip-trembling efforts of Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon, *Stepmom* has little to recommend it apart from a high Kleenex factor. Trendy fashion photographer Isabel (Roberts) has moved in

with Ed Harris, a lawyer, and his two spoilt, prickly children, cute Ben and spiky Anna. Former wife and perfect earth-mother Jackie (Sarandon) can barely bring herself to acknowledge her lascivious young successor. The kids bristle with resentment at having to shuttle between the two women. Liam Aiken's Ben is mostly just cheeky; Jena Malone's 12-year-old Anna was minted in hell. Insanely eager to please, Jackie persists like a hopeless Mary Poppins. Meanwhile, Harris looks on feebly, as if he has permanent indigestion.

Things turn unbelievably squelchy when Sarandon announces she has terminal cancer. "It should have been me," groans Harris as if antacid tablets wouldn't melt in his mouth. Can Roberts win the kids around before their mother dies? Can Sarandon bury her hatchets in something more appropriate than Roberts's forehead? Director Chris Columbus squeezes every musty drop of sentiment he can from his close-ups of the dewy-eyed kids. He could get locked up for this kind of manipulative abuse.

Marriage gets an equally rough ride in Peter Berg's black comedy, *Very Bad Things*. "It's an 18-wheel cement truck that's going to break every bone in your body," quips Keith's stockbroker buddy, Mike. From the way Keith's future wife (Cameron Diaz) gets steamed up over wedding arrangements, you know this is not fanciful thinking. But comedy is a deeply misleading word to describe what happens next.

Four of Keith's best male friends — all equally stressed out — escape to Las Vegas to celebrate his last days of freedom. An orgy of drink, drugs and the inevitable stripper has *Blood Simple* consequences when the nude dancer is accidentally impaled on a hook in the hotel bathroom. When the hotel security man pitches up, things go from very bad to downright gashly. By the time the lads have chopped up the evidence, bagged it in suitcases and buried it in the desert, they've turned from regular obnoxious jocks into five eyeball-rolling, over-acting neurotics led by Christian Slater's demonic estate agent.

From these dismal ingredients, director Berg fashions a surprisingly compelling, macabre satire on buddy movies and smug suburban aspirations. I don't know about taste, but it's a wonderful antidote to *Stepmom*.

The rest of this week's releases are equally damaged. Curiously, James Toback's chamber piece, *Two Girls and a Guy*, is a film that might work better at a fringe theatre venue like the Donmar. A student tilt at sexual fidelity and modern relationships, the film is full of foul language, squinting and angry posturing. For good reason. Two girls, standing on the doorstep of Robert Downey Jr's SoHo flat, discover that they are both supposedly longstanding girlfriends of the same flaky actor, Natasha

"I'm an actor," he bawls in his defence, launching into Hamlet's Mad Speech to his mother. Preposterously, it works.

At this point, a quirky film savaging male narcissism suddenly falls on its sword. For all the talk of monogamy, the unspoken issue now is will he make it with both girls? The question Toback's film should be asking is why are these two sexy, intelligent girls competing for this mother-fixated git-zard?

No less corny is Claude Lelouch's 1966 film *A Man and a Woman*. Why it won two Oscars for best foreign film and

best original screenplay is beyond my wildest ken. Here single parents Anne Aimée and Jean-Louis Trintignant discover each other when they take their kids out of boarding school for the weekend. Like *Shakespeare in Love*, this is a love affair based on accidents.

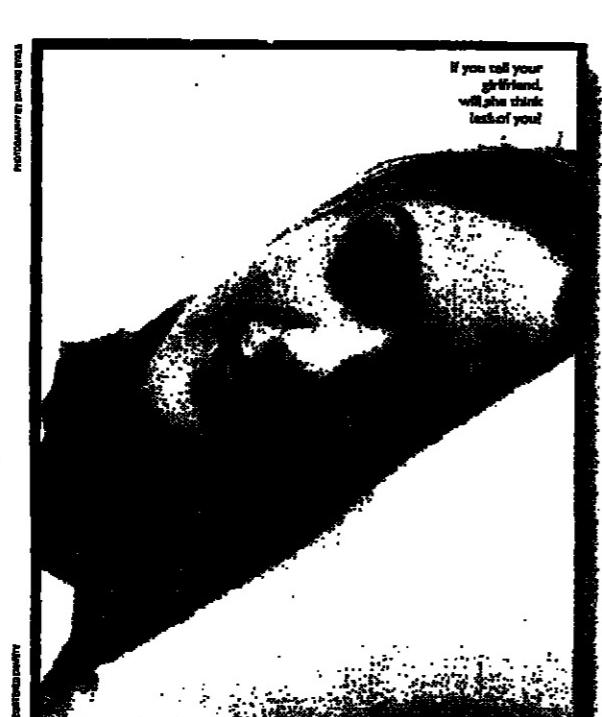
He is a chain-smoking racing driver whose wife committed suicide after he crashed during the Le Mans 24-hour race. She still hankers after her dead husband, a Brazilian stuntman.

Lelouch dresses their romance in every cinematic effect he can dream up. This includes hosing car windscreens to denote bad weather and flashing from black and white to lurid orange for no perceptible reason. He plays the same tricks with sound: terrible supermarket music or cheesy dubbed songs. None of it enhances the plonking romance.

Still, back to the story. After a big race, Aimée sends a telegram telling Trintignant that she loves him. He drives what seems like 22,000 miles in order to be with her. She realises she hasn't buried her husband in her own mind. Will they ever get it together? Why cares?

LINKS

WEBSITE: *Shakespeare in Love*: www.up.com
Stepmom: www.zony.com
Two Girls and a Guy: www.fox.co.uk
Very Bad Things: www.verybadthings.com
TELEVISION:
Berry Newman's Film Night, Sky Premier Monday 9pm
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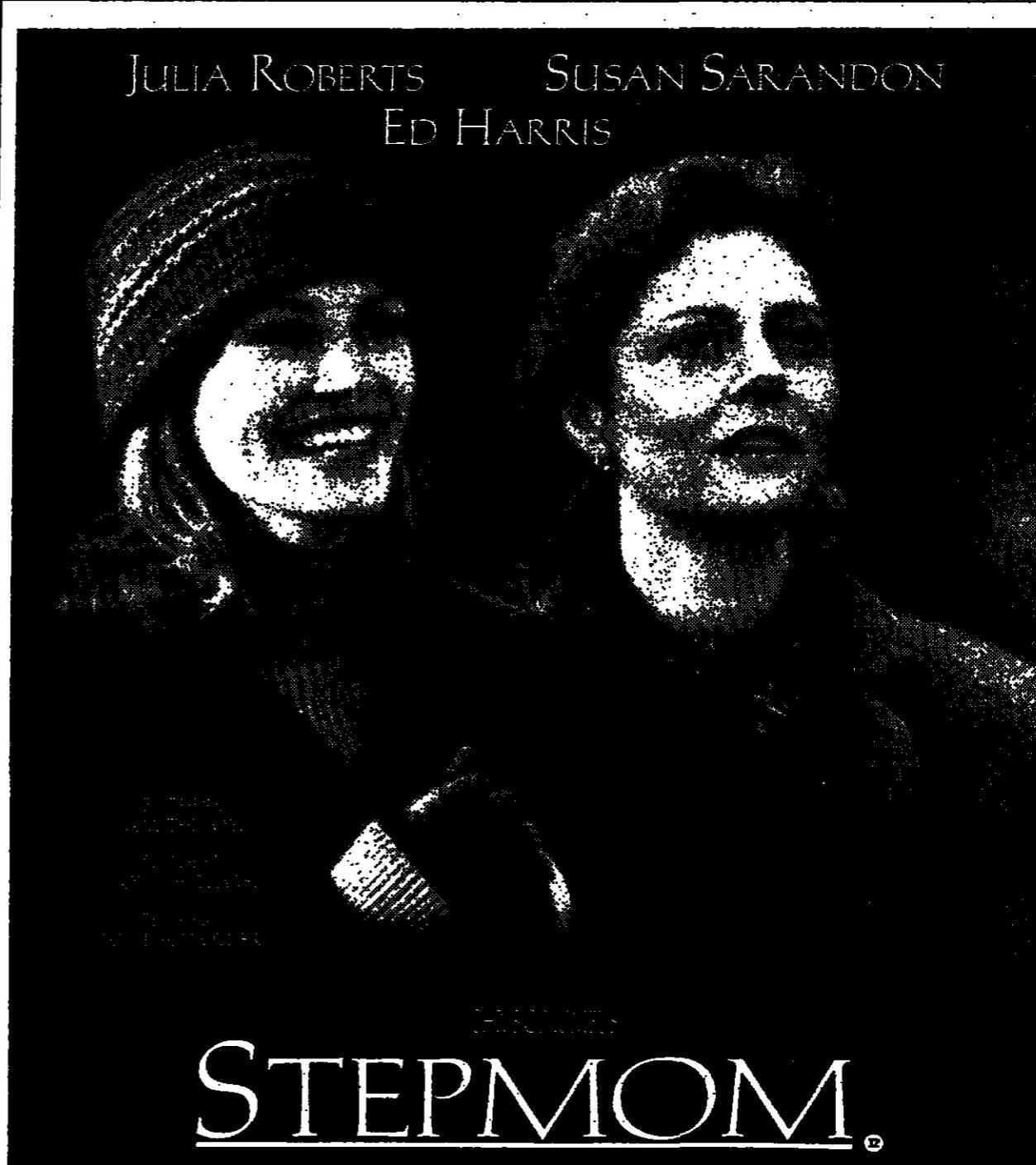
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GALLERIES

The Tate goes shopping

A million-pound biblical prize

VISUAL ART: An epic Spencer painting has been bought for the nation and Richard Cork is delighted

One of Stanley Spencer's most outstanding early paintings, *Zacharias and Elizabeth*, has been acquired for the nation. The Tate Gallery and Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust have jointly purchased the picture from a private collector for £1,141,578.

The substantial price, which reflects Spencer's growing international reputation, was only raised with a £570,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a National Art Collections Fund grant of £200,000, and generous support from the Friends of the Tate Gallery. But *Zacharias and Elizabeth* was a prize well worth winning. When the 22-year-old Spencer completed it in 1914, the result dramatically confirmed the emergence of a major new talent in British art.

Two years after he left the Slade School of Art, Spencer was back in his family's crowded home at Cookham on Thames when he painted *Zacharias and Elizabeth*. He had lived in the village all his life, and regarded it as the prime inspiration for the visions that nurtured his art.

At five feet square, the canvas was the largest he had yet worked on. Spencer later recalled how he painted it in the family dining-room. The table was tipped up to form a makeshift easel, and "Pa was giving piano lessons on my right". To add to its congestion, "other children were fired up along the dark paper-patterned wall, mostly from the back lane school, waiting their turn" for more lessons. The young Spencer's powers of concentration must have been formidable.

However much stimulus music may have provided, Spencer took his starting-point from the New Testament. St Luke's account of the priest Zacharias and his barren wife Elizabeth, both "well stricken in years", prefigures the An-

nunciation of Christ's birth. For the angel Gabriel appears in the temple and tells the incredulous Zacharias that Elizabeth will give birth to a son who would become John the Baptist. But Spencer was independent enough to take enormous liberties with his biblical source. The temple was vanished, and in its place a Cookham garden becomes the setting for the miracle.

He based it on the view from a cottage owned by Jack Hatch, a friendly local coalman. Spencer was allowed to wander at will through the garden, absorbing its atmosphere

'He was independent enough to take enormous liberties with his source'

so completely that he would easily convey its charged meaning in paint. Dominated by the stripped trees of Cliveden Wood, extending to the horizon, it is a winter scene. The angel, who adopts a tilting, almost balletic pose in the centre, seems well wrapped up against the cold. Zacharias, making a sacrifice at his altar in the foreground, appears reluctant to acknowledge the angelic presence. But he looks strangely spellbound, as though held in fearful suspense by his awareness of an impending event.

Hence the pared-down simplicity of the limbs and draperies in *Zacharias and Elizabeth*, along with his decision to counter the precision of grass with immense, blurred-edged shadows spread across

the lawn and up the side of the white wall. Their brooding presence gives the painting an ominous air, as if they might soon snuff out its illuminated areas. And Spencer's decision to make the wall so intrusive, sticking through the picture like the enlarged side of an enamel



In his large canvas *Zacharias and Elizabeth* (1913-14) Stanley Spencer traded the heat of Judaea for an English garden

bath, adds to the troubled mood. While acting as a protective enclosure for Zacharias and the angel, it shuts out the anonymous female figure who balances on an uprooted tree in her effort to peer over.

Her kneeling pose, combined with the eagerness she

displays in struggling to witness the event, increases the feeling of momentousness. Everyone in this haunting image seems arrested, as though overcome by the mystery inherent in the angelic encounter. Spencer intensifies their awe by removing the scene

from the heat of Judaea to the frosty Berkshire countryside, investing an everyday English garden with a sense of hushed, sacred wonder.

• The picture is on show at the Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield next Wednesday, and comes to the Tate in London in the summer

Cred by the saxful

Stanley Turrentine is seen by many jazz aficionados as a gifted and individual player who, for much of his career, was lost to the music succumbing to the blandishments of pop and the demands of the Top 20.

As anyone who's heard Turrentine sashay innocently through the likes of *Little Green Apples*, *The Look of Love* or *Elusive Butterfly* will confirm, jazz and pop do not mix easily, so it was something of a relief to see the 64-year-old tenorman take the Jazz Café stage with a trio of topflight British jazz musicians playing acoustic instruments: pianist Gary Boshan, bassist Gary Crosby and drummer Winston Clifford.

Turrentine is at heart a blues player, so a lightly swinging opener in the medium warmed both him and his band up perfectly, and even

JAZZ

Stanley Turrentine
Jazz Café

gave the latter a chance to slip easily into what is practically a local rhythm: reggae. Clearly delighted with their sparkly responsiveness, Turrentine got down to business, calling, in quick succession, a relatively tricky Billy Taylor composition, Duke Ellington's luxuriant ballad *In a Sentimental Mood* and the Coltrane classic *Impressions*.

To this varied fare Turrentine brought all his elegance and easygoing fluency. Having one of the most individual saxophone sounds in jazz — a combination of earnest wistfulness and sharp, bluesy snap — gives him a head start, but it is his sheer experience, laced with wit (quotes from Grieg's *I Found a New Baby* and Myrdal's *Favourite Things* in the Coltrane; Paper Moon in the Taylor) that carries the day.

A visit to Jobim's *Triste* also contained a delightfully mischievous quote, this time from Rossini) allowed the celebrated Turrentine tone to waltz sensuously across the gentle samba rhythm, then it was back to more vigorous material: *Don't Mess with Mr T*, a characteristically yearning lope written for him by Marvin Gaye. Concluding with a couple of blues numbers on which he stretched out luxuriously for chorus after chorus, Turrentine proved that you don't necessarily have to dilute your other colours were needed.

GEOFF BROWN

CHRIS PARKER

French melodies without tears

There is more to *mélodies* than their tunes. Civilization au voyage, as the six-week journey through French song at St John's, Smith Square is called, takes its title from one of the most beguiling and famous *mélodies* of Duparc: a perfect fusion poem, vocal line and piano part.

Even in this first concert of the series, which will cover 120 years of repertory from Berlioz to Poulenc and Messiaen, the songs made all these characteristics quite clear. Programme notes or really informative spoken introductions might have filled in more instead we got Roderick Swanson's talkative talking notes, full of historical detail but saying very little about the music and almost nothing about the poets.

Fortunately, the performers did all the communicating that was needed. Unusually, the cycle was shared between two singers. The soprano Geraldine McGreevy held the audience spellbound, with the soft radiance of her *La spectre de la rose* and put a smile in her voice for *L'île ensoleillée*; Richard Edgar-Wilson was less persuasive, though still moving in his contributions.

But then the tenor was standing in for an indisposed Paul

Nilon, and elsewhere in the concert he got to sing some of the less memorable numbers: two tortuous songs by Franck, for instance. His light, mellifluous tone is well suited to French music, and only some straying intonation spoilt the charm and elegance of his Gooldian group. With fine support from the pianist, Simon Over, the two Duparc songs were evocative.

With every performance, McGreevy is becoming a more complete artist; and here she showed greater platform presence than ever before. Excellent French and an ability to float and swell a phrase make her a natural in this music.

Her Bizet songs were lively, though neither she nor the pianist caught all the seductiveness of *Adieu à l'hôtesse arabe*. In Fauré, from the detached waltz of *Le papillon et la fleur* to the whispering of *Après un rêve*, she evoked the essence of this most central of the *mélodie* composers.

John Allison

Caressed by colour

from *Impresiones intimas*, early pieces written in Paris before the First World War, Catalan magic deliciously garnished with French dressing. Her fingers teased out the wistfulness in *Sad Bird*, danced with rocking rhythms in *The Boat*, and whirled round and round in the *Cypsy* rondo. "I adore Mompou," Ortiz wrote in her programme note. With good reason, too.

As sometimes happens in this Harrods series, a "live keyboard relay" caught those fingers on camera and thrust them up for scrutiny on a screen. This was of limited interest: any emotion and drama

were well displayed in Ortiz's face, especially once she embarked on Grieg's commanding Ballade in G minor, written in the shadow of his parents' deaths. For Grieg these 14 variations on a sombre Norwegian folk song reflected feelings so painful that he could never bring himself to play them in public. Ortiz responded well to their improvisatory

air, though the peaks of anguish were left unscaled.

Her skills were better displayed in two miniatures by Grieg's Scandinavian colleague Stenhammar: the G-flat major Impromptu, in particular, shimmered with warmth and delicacy. Ortiz seemed properly at home, though, when she left northern Europe for the recital's second half and moved south to music from her native Brazil.

Here her impulsive ebullience and caressing touch could be given full play. There were five exotic works by Fructuoso Víarima, and two by Oscar Lorenzo Fernández pieces packed with intoxicating cross-rhythms, descriptive niceties (street-song cries, fruit plumping from the trees), headlong waltzes, crunching minor chords. Before the encores, Ortiz was handed two bouquets and placed them perilously on the piano. They brightened the platform, but by this time neither colour was needed.

GEOFF BROWN

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BOOKS

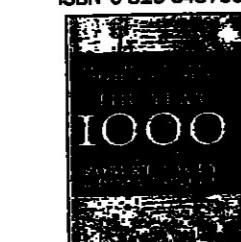
Honey still for tea

Once more unto the brink: peering over the rim of the last millennium, Ian McIntyre files his report

What does the word millennium mean, grandpa?" "Different things to different people, my dear. To the prosaic, a period of 1,000 years. To those who take the Book of Revelation literally, an apocalyptic vision of Christ returning to impose direct rule. To a latter-day Candide, the happy state to which the United Kingdom will be reduced when the perfectibility-men of new Labour have completed their third term . . ." Amanda? Damn the child, she's just like jesting Plate.

We are not quite at the stage of having to call in Max Clifford, but the pre-publicity for the Second Millennium Show is not entirely what its sponsors might have wished. Episodic sogginess? The proceedings of those swaying in the howdah of the great white elephant of Greenwich? Coraggio! For those who feel that the times are out of joint, that they are banting some sort of pre-millennial hangover before the party has even begun, Robert Lacey and Danny Danziger have concocted a delight-

THE YEAR 1000
By Robert Lacey and
Danny Danziger
Little, Brown, £12.99
ISBN 0 316 643750



ful and refreshing pick-me-up. "It was an oak tree that provided the ink, from a boil-like pimple growing out of its bark. A wasp had gnawed into the wood to lay its eggs there, and, in self-defence, the tree formed a gall round the intrusion, circular and hard-skinned like a crab-apple, full of clear acid." Not a bad opening for authors who describe themselves modestly as "working journalists". In a mere 200 pages they have compiled a colourful and highly entertaining picture of what life was like in



Shipbuilding, year 1000-style, from a section of the Bayeux Tapestry: life was quiet but some things stayed the same —

people amused each other telling jokes about hairy onions

Anglo-Saxon England at the turn of the first millennium. It is as stylish a popular social history as one could find.

They give credit for much of the leg-work to Nina Drummond. It was her idea to cast the book in the form of a calendar, a month per chapter, to mimic the rhythm of life in the year 1000. They took as their model the Julius Work Calendar, produced in the studio of Canterbury Cathedral around AD 1020, and it is a device which works admirably.

It was a much emptier world than ours — one person for every 40 or 50 today. A sturdy and healthy lot, the Anglo-

Saxons, apparently, and not much shorter in stature than we are, even though they had no spinach. (Popeye would only have flourished after the return of the Crusaders.) There was no tea or sugar, either, although there was plenty of honey — the Anglo-Saxons were much cleverer bee-keepers than the Romans. Lampreys were plentiful, and imports of salt whale blubber were available, too, for those who liked that sort of thing.

Social life was notably static. Lacey and Danziger suggest that the closest modern parallel would be with "the restricted and repetitive circle of friends" encountered in

soap operas. (They should brace themselves for interminable protests from the National Federation of Archers' Fan Clubs.) There were no playing cards, although there was backgammon, and a form of noughts and crosses known as ticktacktoe; the Anglo-Saxons also went in for elaborate riddles, full of salacious references to hairy onions and the pleasures of butter churning.

The National Health Service still lay some way in the future, and was therefore not yet in crisis. In the absence of Viagra, those who felt themselves insufficiently virile turned to the herb agrimony and boiled its yellow flowers in milk (cooked in Welsh ale, however, if had the contrary effect). Lower-back pain was believed to respond to the smoke of smouldering goats' hair, and baldness retreated before an ointment made from the ashes of burnt bees.

American readers will feel better for knowing that nearly one of the words Neil Armstrong uttered when he stepped onto the Moon was already part of Old English by the year 1000. Lacey and Danziger also point out that much of the earthier language often described as "Anglo-Saxon" is nothing of the sort. Opponents of the Maastricht treaty will find ammunition for their

cause when they learn that *fok* (cooked in Welsh ale, however, if had the contrary effect), *lowr* (carobs), *cunte* and *crappe* are all much later imports, probably coming from Holland in the later Middle Ages.

It was an age of faith: "People believed as fervently in the power of saints' bones as many today believe that wheat bran or jogging or psychotherapy can increase the sum of human happiness." I particularly enjoyed the account of the permitted signs by which otherwise silent monks might communicate, all set out in the *Monasteriales Indicia*: "One gets the impression that meals times in a Benedictine refectory were rather like a gathering of baseball coaches, all furiously

beckoning, squeezing their earlobes, meaningfully rubbing their fingers up and down the sides of their noses, and smoothing their hands over their stomachs."

Lacey and Danziger could not quite decide how to end their book, and they do so rather lamely ("Whether we today display more wisdom or common humanity is an open question . . ."), but that is a minor blemish. *The Year 1000* could be read with profit by many whose approach to historical writing is much more ponderous. It is an elegant and painless lesson in how to combine serious purpose with lightness of touch.

An unorthodox look at Russia

New Year is the time when Russians, trained by years of state-sponsored atheism, celebrate the pagan aspects of Christmas by feasting, putting presents beneath a decorated tree and fighting with their families. But Russians have more cause than most to drink themselves into oblivion as they celebrate the approach of the new millennium this year: for Russia has endured a bloody and bitter 20th century. An aura of suffering hovers like a martyr's halo over most of the pieces in the absorbing new issue of *Granta*.

Typically, it is the contributions by foreigners that reveal an overt preoccupation with history. Orlando Figes sets the tone in his observations on the burial of the murdered family of Tsar Nicholas II in St Petersburg last year. Shocked by the general indifference to the proceedings themselves and the symbolism of the act, Figes, a Cambridge historian, offers

NATASHA FAIRWEATHER

RUSSIA: THE WILD EAST
Granta, issue 64
£7.99
ISBN 0903141 24 8



contradictory advice. At first he advocates the study of history as the only balm for Russia's national wounds, but then he recommends that Russia should cast the past aside in order to focus on the challenges of a difficult future.

Colin Thubron finds Russians doing this anyway in his lyrical meander around the Siberian town of Omsk. He shadows a hearty group of predominantly female pilgrims as they dig the foundations for a monastery in a place where countless thousands of victims of a Soviet gulag lie buried in mass graves. Troubled by the ease at which the past is buried and forgotten, but affected by the mid-summer gaiety around him, Thubron begins to view "Russia's atheist past", and by extension the Soviet era, as "no more than an overcast day in the long orthodox summer".

The Soviet era seems more like the eternal night of a Siberian winter to the inhabitants of Norilsk, the nickel-mining town perched on the Arctic Circle. The population, made up predominantly of former prisoners and guards from the nearby Soviet camps, have never dealt with their complicity in the outrages of the past, but they have found common



Fallen Statue of Stalin, Moscow, 1991 in *Hope Photographs* (Thames & Hudson, £18.95)

ground, according to documentary film-maker Angus Macqueen, in bemoaning the terrible present state.

Alongside a poignant memoir by Charlotte Hobson of a young Russian dreamer called Pavel Pravda who could not find a truth to believe in and overdoled on heroin, and Masha Gessen's humorous look at her grandmother's Soviet compromises, this issue of *Granta* would be worth reading for the short story by Andrei Platonov alone. Platonov was one of the greatest writers of the Soviet era whose proletarian roots and youthful Communist ardour made his eventual disillusionment with the system all the greater. No writer has a bleaker vision of life. *The River Poudra* is a story from Platonov's 1937 collection of the same name. Magnificently translated by a team of three, this muted love story

trembles with the pain of suppressed emotion and it asks if love is the best one can hope for in life.

Amid the grim realism, compounded by a series of striking photographs from the Chechen war, Victor Pelevin's fantasy of how a drunkard's job interview nearly ends in a ritual suicide is an amusing introduction to the work of one of Russia's most promising contemporary novelists.

A disaster decoded, but not averted

What did the British and American governments know about the Holocaust and could they have stopped it?

Imagine this: At Bletchley Park, spearhead of the Allies' codebreaking efforts, an intelligence analyst reads an intercept revealing Hitler ordering the use of Jews as forced labour on the Eastern front. A later intercept shows the commandant at Auschwitz demanding that a shipment of Dutch Jews be routed directly to his camp and not diverted for labour in Silesia. What is the decoder to make of the intercepts? Ruthless exploitation or systematic genocide?

Thousands of such documents still exist. Most remain secret. Richard Breitman, however, a distinguished American scholar of the Holocaust, has unearthed samples released in 1997. The contents of his book, rather than its style, make it compulsive reading. Yet his decoding of the intercepts provokes questions as well as answers.

At its heart lie some 60 files of decrypts of transmissions of the SS and the German Order Police, tasked with keeping order and dealing with emergencies. It also had militarised battalions, was headed by a fervent Nazi, Kurt Daluege, and carried out the mass executions of Jews in Russia. Codebreakers cracked the Order Police code as early as 1939. It contains tales of shootings, reprisals, and executions.

Canone is plotted with the taut sophistication of a thriller. But the refinements of its construction, though dazzling, are far from gratuitous, and far from trivial in intent. Maurensig is not afraid to tackle some of the century's most challenging themes. He writes of evil and guilt; of the Holocaust; of how history makes us what we are, and how we remake our own histories. The formal artifice of his work lends a telling precision to his discussion of such things. Where other writers might resort to bombast, he achieves a rare and quite unusual settling score.

Breitman recognises the danger, pointing out that the

Holocaust is a postwar term coined only after the extermination camps were discovered and the full dimensions of their horrors understood. Yet how can any of us today truly understand what we know? At the time Allied spokesmen and propagandists were slow to single out the Jews as special victims of the Nazis. Politically, calculation here was obvious, not least the fear of fuelling Zionist demands over Palestine.

Breitman, understandably, is critical of this. But an historian of intelligence might also ask about the broader codebreaking context. Evidence of crimes against the Jews was irrefutable. But what did the decrypts reveal about massacres of other groups — Serbs, Polish intellectuals, Gypsies, for example? How easily could it be concluded that a Holocaust, as distinct from separate atrocities, was taking place? We need comparative data to understand the challenge the analysts faced.

Churchill had a good press over his reaction to Hitler's treatment of the Jews, but Breitman reveals an unexplained curiosity here. The Prime Minister avidly read decrypts of Order Police and SS killings over the summer of 1941. Then the Secret Intelligence Service decided that his future briefings would not cover such material: because it was now obvious what it contained. Did the decision reflect Churchill's wish, or that of someone else? Had he grown weary of it all, or did his intelligence chiefs fear that he might let slip the source of his knowledge and thus alert the enemy to Bletchley Park's war-winning exploits?

There are intriguing hints that this might have been the reason. But that, too, remains an official secret.

Subtle harmonies

IAN BRUNSKILL

CANONE INVERSO
Phoenix House, £12.99
ISBN 1 861691 35 7



the noted 17th-century Austrian maker Jacob Stainer. It has pegs set not in the usual scroll, but in a small head with a cruel and threatening face".

How that distinguished and sinister instrument came to be played by a vagabond entertainer in a late-night Viennese bar is the mystery at the heart of the book. Its solution lies in the history of two young musicians, the one an illegitimate boy from a modest Hungarian home, the other heir to an Austrian barony.

Their awkward friendship begins when they meet as pupils of the renowned Collegium Musicum, a bizarre institution run more like a prison or an asylum than a leading music school. It ends amid one

IN metro ON SATURDAY

Up and out in London and New York: Martin Aston talks to John Cale about his autobiography, *What's Welsh for Zen* — from his upbringing in Wales to the Velvet Underground and his career as a solo artist. ALSO: Marcel Berlins reviews the new novel by Scottish crime writer, Ian Rankin; Emily Prager's reworking of *Lolita*; and General Custer rides again in Evan S. Connell's *Son of the Morning Star*.

BOOKS



A poet for the people

SELECTED POEMS
By Langston Hughes
Serpent's Tail, £7.99
ISBN 1 85242 127 4

LANGSTON HUGHES, dubbed the "Negro Poet Laureate", wrote verse to sing in the bath, shout in mid-argument and have under your breath on the way to work. For 40 years until his death in 1967, Hughes wrote about what he knew best: the lives of ordinary blacks in the United States. Breaking with the more traditional meters of the European school, these jazz-influenced poems and lyrics, such as *Song For Billie Holiday*, his *Weary Blues* and *Misery*, mesmerise with their easy rhythm and sweet simplicity.

Too tall tales

SHERANIGANS
An Anthology of Fresh Irish Fiction
Sceptre, £6.99
ISBN 0 340 71269 4

SHERANIGANS will win prize for pretentiousness if nothing else. In the publicity which accompanies this portfolio of Irish writers, co-editor Sarah Champion reveals her ambition "to become a digital nomad travelling the world with just a Powerbook and a mobile". The writing itself – with the exceptions of Bridget O'Conor's *The Alien Invasion* and Colum McCann's *As If There Were Trees* – reads like sixtieth essays: light on plot and heavy on clanging pop-drugs references.

Call time

SIDEREAUTIME
By Christopher Meredith
Serpent, £7.99
ISBN 1 85241 239 2

A SIDEREAL year is measured by the apparent motion of the stars, and is longer than a solar year by 30 minutes 73 seconds. This is, arguably, the most lucid part of Christopher Maledict's third novel. Although his central question is one of the most interesting in metaphysics – how do we come to terms with being transient beings in an infinite Universe? – he does not get beyond the premise. His impossibly elusive experimental prose and unsympathetic characters put a fascinating subject into stupid waste of time.

Latin loves

LUCKY IN LOVE
By David Mourão-Ferreira
Carcanet, £9.95
ISBN 1 852754 288 2

A FORMER Minister of Culture for the Portuguese Government, David Mourão-Ferreira chooses Lisbon in the years following the bloodless revolution of 1974 as the backdrop to his tale. A sculptor who is experiencing the sort of second coming of age we read about in glossy mags, reviews the women who have moulded him into the figure he is. What emerges is a story of two love affairs tantalising enough to make the least prim Arts Minister blush like a schoolgirl.

ALEX O'CONNELL

Fashion's prisoner

BEL MCONEY

HERO OF THE UNDERWORLD
By Jimmy Boyle
Serpent's Tail, £9.99
ISBN 1 85242 608 X

About 25 years ago I spent over an hour in a cell in Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow, talking to a killer who had one of the worst reputations in the city. The criminal was slight, quietly spoken and intelligent. With no attempt to gloss the violence of his life, he made a formidable case for the view that while prison may punish, it is unproductive and inhuman for it to be one of the circles of hell. Even then, Jimmy Boyle had already started to study, sculpt and write. His story demonstrated how upbringing could corrupt, a savage prison regime brutalise, and the smallest degree of understanding offer the possibility of redemption.

Boyle was released in 1982, after serving 15 years. While still inside he published two autobiographies, *A Sense of Freedom* and *The Pain of Conscience*, which are required reading for anyone who seeks to understand crime and punishment. The first volume, especially as written in a

rough-Kesey-London" comparison, heaped on it as to make that praise seem dangerously close to patronage.

John Ferguson is a son who, with a fine sense of irony, calls himself "Hero", and is released from a prison known as "The Institution", only to descend into an underworld where extremes, viscerae, vomit and a diet of rats are the staple fare. People are known only by nicknames, and what rage is felt is directed against the brutes who languish in other circles of the darkness; rather than those above. The picaresque structure falls flat and when it attempts reflection the prose verges on the jejune.

With real regret I say that Boyle has shown what he is capable of, but his novel cannot be mentioned in the same breath as his autobiographical volumes. In restricting himself to knockabout Gothic horror and wallowing in the scatological at the expense of real characterisation, he has imposed limits on his soul as sad as they are fashionable.

When depression and identity meet

Two books on the study and experience of depression bring together the science of the brain with the mysteries of the mind

SHAKESPEARE identified the problem before the scientists. "In sooth, I know not why I am so sad," Antonio laments in *The Merchant of Venice*. "It wearies me, you say it wears you! But how I caught it, found it, or came by it. What stuff 'tis made of, whereof it is born! I am to learn!" And such a want-wit sadness makes of me. / That I have much ado to know myself."

If Antonio does not know himself, what can he know? He sees the world around him in relation to himself; he cannot help it. If that self should change, what then? Robert Burton would not produce his *Anatomy of Melancholy* for another 20 years, but it is clear that by the 17th century what we might think of as a very modern problem – depression – was well established in Western consciousness, and recognised as going to the root of what makes us who we are. Carlyle would note how Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, pub-

lished in 1774, gave expression to the nameless unrest and longing discontent which was then agitating every bosom".

Malignant sadness. Burton called the nameless unrest that made Antonio a stranger to himself. It is as good a description as any of that dark void. To those who have not peered over the edge, the opening words of Lewis Wolpert's book about depression – part memoir, part investigation – may seem an impossible overstatement. "It was the worst experience of my life," he writes. "More terrible even than watching my wife die of cancer." He is, he concedes, "ashamed" to admit this. But depression, as his moving and enlightening book charts, is not "feeling low", is not "worrying about nothing"; it is despite Burton's (and Wolpert's) earnest exhortation to "be not idle" in the face of it – something to be strapped out of. It is an illness whose consequences can be devastating, whose symptoms are myri-

ad and which has proved remarkably resistant to treatment.

Wolpert is a biologist. His aim is, in part, to put depression under the microscope. He ranges across cultures and through psychology and physiology to discover why some people get depressed, how a cure might be effected and how the illness might be avoided. Yet, near the end of his book, he admits that "it would be misleading to say that depression is understood"; quite an admission for a scientist.

That is, to some extent, its fascination. If there is no precise, chemical or biological explanation for this phenomenon, it is because there is as yet no precise, chemical or biological explanation for what we call the soul. A discussion of brain cells, synapses and neurotransmitters won't quite do; as far as emotion is concerned humanity still appears to dwell in a medieval world of "humours" that mysteriously colour experience. For this reason it is all the more startling when a "purely



Erica Wagner

"chemical" change alters personality dramatically.

It is this kind of alteration that overtakes Lauren Slater. Psychoactive drugs are nothing new; drugs that work with the apparent precision of Prozac are. Prozac is a selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitor: it stops the brain reabsorbing the mood-affecting neurotransmitter se-

rotonin. Slater already had a history of mental illness in 1988, when she was 26 and first given the then brand-new drug.

Prozac *Diary* charts her chemical transformation. Before Prozac there were eating disorders, a compulsion to tap and check voices inside her head – after Prozac there was health, a condition she can barely recognise. One morning she wakes up to a world subtly and yet enormously changed: "It was as though I'd been visited by a blind piano tuner who had crept into my apartment at night, who had twanged the ivory bones of my body, the taut strings in my skull, and now, when I pressed on myself, the same notes but with a melodic, fuller sound sprang out."

But Lauren Slater has been ill all her life. The atmosphere inside her bell jar was oppressive, but it was familiar; the world no longer seen through glass is a foreign and confusing place. And yet the world has not changed: she has. The voices she heard did not make her "happy", but they were, in a sense, her friends and comforters: now they are gone. Her "ill" self wrote stories and poems; her "healthy" self does

not. Is something missing? Is it worth the trade?

Slater has no answers. This is an extremely personal document, and has some of the failings of the genre of "creative non-fiction": the language can be overblown and the reader is not always as interested in Slater as she is in herself. She is, however, a perceptive writer, and her focus on her own experience means she does not pronounce or over-generalise as Elizabeth Wurtzel did in *Prozac Nation*. Yet in raising questions – in making much ado to know herself – Slater illuminates not just her own illness and how its nature is entwined with her core, but adds a valuable contribution to the debate over what makes us – in this pharmacological age – exactly what we are.

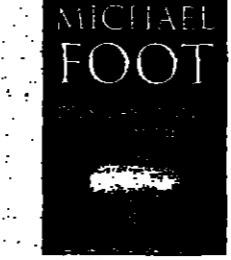
MALIGNANT SADNESS
The Anatomy of Depression
By Lewis Wolpert
Faber, £9.99
ISBN 0 571 19172 X

PROZAC DIARY
By Lauren Slater
Hamish Hamilton, £9.99
ISBN 0 241 13749 7

Beyond the big bang

First we got the bomb, and that was good... Tariq Ali admires Michael Foot's anti-nuclear stance

DR STRANGELOVE, I PRESUME
By Michael Foot
Victor Gollancz, £16.99
ISBN 0 575 08693 8



sort weakens the impact and should be reserved for a memoir. There was also, surprisingly, no reference to the European Nuclear Disarmament network or the late E.P. Thompson, whose passion and pamphleteering ignited the rebirth of an anti-nuclear movement during the Eighties.

Nonetheless, there is much wisdom in this book and much anger against the complicity of Western leaders who watched calmly as the nuclear monopoly was broken by Israel, South Africa, India and Pakistan. China and, no doubt, others of which we are yet unaware. He treats the late Indira Gandhi too much at face value. He treats her as, the late Rajiv Gandhi, as if he were a sage. In reality the mother was a cynical and ruthless manipulator and the son a simpleton who should never have entered politics. Foot, he argues, was the real victor. He had

been shocked and upset by the decision of India and Pakistan to go nuclear and he felt like Goethe's Faust that: "This drives me near to desperation! Such elemental power unhampered, purposeless! There dares my spirit soar past all it knew! Here I would stand, if this, I would subdue!"

There are aspects of this book which irritate Foot. He is besotted with the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty of India. He takes the late Indira Gandhi too much at face value. He treats her as, the late Rajiv Gandhi, as if he were a sage. In reality the mother was a cynical and ruthless manipulator and the son a simpleton who should never have entered politics. Foot, he argues, was the real victor. He had

saved Castro and won concessions nearer home.

The real hero of this volume, however, is Mikhail Gorbachev. "In my estimation, he did more than any other single individual engaged in the ugly trade of world politics to make possible a peaceful ending of our war-torn century... whatever he was or was not, he was the most passionate nuclear disarmer who ever appeared on the planet."

The heart of the problem lies

in the post-1989 globalisation process that we are living through. If Britain has the bomb why not India? Delhi's apologists often pose the question and there is no relativist response. The only way to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons is by the strength of example: a Europe nuclear-free from the Atlantic to the Urals would represent a tremendous leap forward.

This is not simply Foot's view, but a position articulated by the former United States Secretary of Defence, Robert McNamara. It is, alas,

not a view shared by Messrs Blair and Cook and, given the way new Labour has structured the old party, it is unlikely that the subject could ever be openly and democratically discussed at a party conference. This irritates the old bibliophile and hence this book, which is a gentle, reasoned call to arms against the insanity of maintaining nuclear weapons. If it succeeds in putting the nuclear question back on the map of contemporary politics in Britain it will have served its purpose.

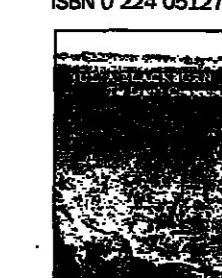
Michael Foot's book is a

noted and unedited guide to grief is made lovable by Blackburn's historical imagination. She has a peculiar talent for finding the tiny details that revive the past: the white banner in Saint Mark's Square announcing that a pilgrimage is ready for passengers; the lion of Venice and red cross of Jerusalem flying from the rigging; the warehouses supplying seasickness pills, plague pills, dried food and holy relics.

Blackburn is even more startling on the subject of women's history. She points out the advantages of being post-menopausal before undertaking a pilgrimage; illustrates the misinterpretation of postnatal depression as possession by the Devil; and a woman in the stocks surrounded by her sniffling children like a sow in the farrow pen. Blackburn is never offensively earnest; she wears her talents like a modern Renaissance woman: with elegance and an affable ease. While it is unlikely to be the climax of her literary career, *The Lepers' Companions* is a significant step on the way.

RUTH SCURR

THE LEPER'S COMPANIONS
By Julia Blackburn
Jonathan Cape, £19.99
ISBN 0 224 05127 X



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Court of Appeal

Balancing factors in dealing with delay

Southwark London Borough Council v Nejad

Before Lord Justice Rich and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment January 21]

It was not always incumbent on a court to grant leave to lodge a bill for taxation and allow the question of penalty to be decided by a taxing master. Since the power of refusing an extension had to be preserved to protect a party from unfairness, but that procedure was one of the few circumstances which allowed for a penalty to be meted out for delay and for an assessment of the degree of penalty required.

A judge in exercising his discretion should not adopt a mechanistic approach to extensions of time but had to balance all factors including the lack of an explanation for the delay or the frankness of any explanation given.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal of London Borough of Southwark against the decision of Judge Cox on December 2, 1997. The judge dismissed the appeal from an order of District Valuer Zimmers dated September 10, 1997, whereby leave to lodge a bill of costs out of time was refused.

Minister's power to decide validity

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and Regions, Ex parte Bath and North East Somerset District Council

Before Mr Christopher Lockhart-Munnery, QC

[Judgment January 6]

Where a local authority had refused planning and listed building consent on the ground that a developer's application had not been made validly and the developer consequently appealed, it was sufficient in the exercise of its legal jurisdiction to consider the question of validity of the application.

Mr Christopher Lockhart-Munnery, QC, so holding sitting as a Divisional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, in refusing the application of Bath and North East Somerset District Council for a declaration as to the limits of the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and Regions to consider appeals in planning applications and listed building consent applications.

The council had received applications for planning permission and listed building consent for a building in its area from a developer but it refused to entertain the application on the ground of invalidity as it considered the plans submitted in support insufficiently detailed.

The developer appealed to the secretary of state and a planning inquiry was arranged for the hearing of the appeal. The council objected

see Order 62, rule 28(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court which applied in the county court by virtue of Order 38, rule 1(3) of the County Court Rules.

It was that procedure which Lord Justice Auld had thought was appropriate in *Toniello* rather than a blanket refusal to extend time.It was important to bear in mind in exercising the discretion under Order 62, rule 28(4) that a taxing master could penalise a party for delay; that is, simply not allow costs whether or not the delay had caused prejudice to the other party and to emphasise the necessity for there to be no delay; see *Enfield London Borough Council v P* [1996] 1 FLR 421.

It was not in dispute that it was open to a court to grant an extension of time for the lodging of a bill of costs: see Order 13, rule 4 of the County Court Rules 1985 (SI 1981 No 103), as amended by County Court (Amendment No 3) Rules (SI 1991 No 132).

It was also not in dispute that the taxing officer had a discretion to disallow some of the costs where a party failed without good reason to commence taxation timously:

The principles to be applied were from *Finnegan v Parkside Health Authority* [1998] 1 WLR 411 and *Coscelow v Somersham County Council* [1993] 1 WLR 256.Those authorities demonstrated that the court should not adopt a mechanistic approach to questions of taxation. In *Toniello* the court should not, for example, defer itself from exercising a discretion to extend time simply because there was no explanation for the delay and in particular because there was no explanation which was acceptable as a reason for the delay.

Each case depended on its own circumstances. But his Lordship would emphasise the explanation given, or the lack of it, or the frankness of it, were factors which the court was entitled to take into account in exercising its discretion, and the prejudice to the opposing party was also a factor to be placed in the scales, but was not necessarily determinative any more than any other factor.

The exercise was one of balancing all the relevant factors and where the result of not granting an extension would be draconian the court was concerned to assess the proportionality of the resulting penalty to the applicant to his failure or lateness.

In the present case, the judge had not performed the balancing exercise and the exercise of discretion was flawed. His Lordship would refer the matter to the taxing master who could penalise proportionately and had greater powers to examine the relevant facts than their Lordships.

Lord Justice Rich agreed.

Solicitors: C. D. A. Jones & Co, South Norwood; Leon Kaye Collins & Gomers, Clapham.

The first question was whether having regard to the taxing master's powers it was always incumbent on a court to grant leave to lodge a bill for taxation and allow any penalty to be decided by him.

His Lordship did not understand that Lord Justice Auld in *Toniello* was saying that there would be no cases where it was appropriate simply to refuse an extension.

What had to be borne in mind in any case was that a blanket refusal

to commence taxation timously:

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The first point related to the meaning of "appropriated" in section 14(1), which empowered a secretary of state to make bylaws for certain purposes relating to land which was appropriated by the secretary of state for any military purpose.

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The crown court had held that because not all of the land to which the bylaws applied had been in use for a military purpose when the bylaws were passed, the land was not appropriated for a military purpose at that time.

In his Lordship's judgment, that was a misinterpretation of section 14(1). "Appropriated", in that section, meant set aside for or allocated to a particular purpose, and had nothing to do with the use of the land in question.

Although the crown court had found that about 70 per cent of the land was being used for farming purposes when the bylaws were passed, the facts as found did not establish that the land had not been appropriated for a military purpose.

The second point related to the purposes for which bylaws could be made under section 14(1).

His Lordship's construction of the section was that it provided a secretary of state with four discrete powers: (i) to regulate the use of the land for the purposes to which it was appropriated; (ii) to secure the public against danger arising from the use of the land; and (iii) to prohibit all intrusion on the land; and (iv) to prohibit all obstruction of the use of the land.

In his Lordship's judgment, purpose (iii) and (iv) were not dependent on showing that the land was currently being used for a military purpose.

Third, the prosecution had argued that since the secretary of state permitted farmers to use the land for farming, farming was a purpose of the secretary of state, and therefore, by virtue of section 2(3) of the Defence (Transfer of Functions) Act 1964, a military purpose.

In his Lordship's judgment that was wrong. It was the use of the land that had to be a purpose of the secretary of state and that was not achieved when he merely allowed farmers to use the land.

In his Lordship's judgment, each subparagraph of bylaw 4(2) was valid, clearly coming within the secretary of state's powers to prohibit intrusion on, and obstruction of, the use of the land.

The appeal would be allowed and the cases remitted to the crown court with a direction to dismiss the appeals.

Mr Justice Collins agreed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, York; Harrison Bundey & Co, Leeds; Treasury Solicitor.

Power to make inquiries

Regina v Bradford Justices, Ex parte Sykes and Another

A clerk or justice was entitled, but not under a duty, to make inquiries beyond the information when deciding to issue a summons.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Buxton and Mr Justice Collins) so held on January 15, when refusing applications by Martin Robert Sykes and David James Shoemsmith for judicial review of the decision by the clerk to Bradford Justices to issue summonses on July 10, 1998 charging them with, inter alia, conspiracy to supply a class A drug.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said that the defendants had argued that it was the duty of the clerk to the justices to make inquiries into the background of the information laid, and that if he had done so in this case, he would have concluded that it would be vexatious to issue the summonses.

The defendants argued that it was implicit in the words of Lord Wiggy, Lord Chief Justice, in *R v West London Summary Magistrate, Ex parte Klein* [1999] 1 WLR 937, 939 that inquiries should be made. Lord Wiggy had referred to *R v Brox* ((1991) 85 LT 581), but that case had only decided that a clerk or justice was entitled to act on any material before him.

His Lordship's said a clerk or justice was entitled to make inquiries before issuing a summons, but there was no duty to do so.

Lord Justice Buxton agreed.

See *Travel this Sunday, Suntan lotion extra.*

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Law Report January 28 1999

Court of Appeal

Proving perverting course of justice

Regina v Lalani

Before Lord Justice Brooke, Mr Justice Hooper and Judge Peter Crawford, QC

[Reasons January 22]

Where a juror was charged with an offence of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice, it was not sufficient for the prosecution to rely solely on the fact of an improper communication between the juror and a defendant concerning the subject matter of the trial. It was necessary to prove that the juror had a tendency to pervert the course of justice and an intention to do so.

She maintained that the Crown had to establish a specific intent by proving either some unlawful communication or one that was lawful but done with the intention of perverting the course of justice and with foresight that the consequences of the act could lead to a perverting of the course of justice.

The judge had ruled that any communication between defendant and jurors concerning the subject matter of the trial was capable of being an improper communication or one that was lawful but done with the intention of perverting the course of justice and with foresight that the consequences of the act could lead to a perverting of the course of justice.

Similarly, if she passed on such information to another juror, it should not be difficult to prove that she intended to influence other jurors through change, or affect, the course of justice.

In the present case, the appellant resolutely declined to make any admissions at all about her state of mind. It was therefore impossible to prove the requisite intention to pervert the course of justice.

After consultation with her advisers Lalani pleaded guilty on the basis that she admitted that she had discussed with one of the defendants her family circumstances, she had given two of the defendants her telephone number and had spoken with them on the telephone on the evenings following the jury's deliberations.

She accepted that she did those acts deliberately and therefore in that sense intended them. She did not, however, accept that she intended or contemplated that the juror to whom she passed information would be influenced by it or that she herself would be influenced in her deliberations or that the course of justice would be affected.

The appellant now challenged her conviction on the basis that the judge was wrong in law when he ruled that she should embrace any conduct that was deliberate and therefore in that sense intended them. She did not, however, accept that she intended or contemplated that the juror to whom she passed information would be influenced by it or that she herself would be influenced in her deliberations or that the course of justice would be affected.

That would embrace any conduct that was deliberate and therefore in that sense intended them. She did not, however, accept that she intended or contemplated that the juror to whom she passed information would be influenced by it or that she herself would be influenced in her deliberations or that the course of justice would be affected.

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SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD BIKES

A REGISTERED CHARITY



If you tell your
girlfriend,
will she think
less of you?

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful.

We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

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And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us – any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans

We'll go through it with you.

RACING

Starting price reporter cleared of malpractice

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

NEAL WILKINS, the Press Association employee arrested last July on suspicion of returning false starting prices at race meetings, has been eliminated from police enquiries and will face no charges.

He was informed of the decision by the Metropolitan Police yesterday and immediately intended to take legal action against those responsible for besmirching his reputation. Civil proceedings are likely to be instituted against individuals in the Jockey Club and the Press Association.

"Only someone who has been through this kind of nightmare can imagine what it is like — absolutely desperate," he said yesterday. "I have suffered sleepless nights, nervous rashes and have been on medication. My doctor said three weeks ago that he was amazed I was still alive, given what I have been through."

"My only 'crime' was to dress well and smoke cigars. I

should never have been put in this situation in the first place and those people who put me there have got to pay for it."

Wilkins, 50, has been a starting price reporter for 25 years, which involves monitoring the movements in the betting ring at Britain's 59 racecourses and determining the starting price for every runner — which are then beamed into the nation's 8,000 betting shops.

His arrest by the Metropolitan Police's clubs and vice squad followed information passed on by the PA, the national news agency, and was separate from the investigation into horse doping and race fixing, which has led to 15 arrests.

In a statement, Wilkins's lawyers said that the police admitted its investigation "has not given rise to any fact or matter which could sustain further investigation, let alone a prosecution."

The allegations against Mr

Wilkins were exceedingly serious, both personally and professionally. He was arrested on suspicion of corruption, returning false starting prices at race meetings. He has been a SP reporter for nearly 26 years and the allegations went to the very heart of his professional standing within the racing industry and by themselves were a slur on his previously unblemished character.

The allegations have resulted in him being suspended for six months from his employment and have caused him an immense amount of personal anxiety, stress and worry.

While Mr Wilkins is relieved and satisfied at the events of today, he is also disappointed with the conduct of certain individuals and bodies who have both caused this spurious investigation to be undertaken in the first place and who have, during the investigation, acted in a manner detrimental to Mr Wilkins's racing good name.

After his arrest, exactly six months before yesterday's announcement, Wilkins insisted the police action was driven by others within the racing industry in an attempt to discredit him for ulterior motives — and he pledged to sue those responsible.

"Nothing has happened over the course of the last six months so as to deter Mr Wilkins from carrying out that statement made at the time of his arrest," the lawyers' statement added.

Another of Pipe's French imports, Majadou confirmed the striking impression of his British debut at Cheltenham.

Wither Or Which back

HAVING taken a long and winding road after the 1996 Cheltenham Festival, Wither Or Which finally returns to the racecourse in a maiden hurdle at Gowran Park today (Chris McGrath writes).

Willie Mullins rode Wither Or Which himself in the Festival Bumper, before saddling Florida Pearl and Alexander Banquet to plunder the next two runnings. Mullins said:

"All goes well, Wither Or

Which heads for the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle at this year's Festival, while Alexander Banquet steps up in trip for the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle."

Mullins' lawyer added:

"Nothing has happened over the course of the last six months so as to deter Mr Wilkins from carrying out that statement made at the time of his arrest," the lawyers' statement added.

Another of Pipe's French imports, Majadou confirmed the striking impression of his British debut at Cheltenham.



Majadou is soon at the head of affairs as he provides Pipe and McCoy with their hundredth winner of the season at Lingfield yesterday

Champion team reaches milestone

By CHRIS MCGRATH

THIS time, perhaps the milestone was rather less significant than the horse that took them past. In sharing the hundredth winner of their respective seasons at Lingfield yesterday, Tony McCoy and Martin Pipe confirmed their pre-eminence among jump jockeys and trainers.

If it is not quite so overwhelming as has sometimes been the case, both will recognise that Majadou — who routed his sole rival, Kinsford Pet, for the Dave Freeman Memorial Novices' Chase — can contribute to their success in terms of quality as well as quantity.

Another of Pipe's French imports, Majadou confirmed the striking impression of his British debut at Cheltenham.

ham on New Year's Day, when he had beaten a good subsequent winner in Kadou Nonantais. He will return there for the Festival in March after jumping safely in very taxing conditions yesterday.

McCoy said of his winner: "He did it well, as a two-horse race is never easy. We got round safely but, like a lot of French horses, he does tend to jump to the left." The season's leading jockey added: "He's in a lot of races at the Festival, but I'm sure the trainer will make the right choice."

Pipe's decision to drop Majadou to two miles at Lingfield makes the Guinness Arliss Trophy an especially feasible target. McCoy has been unable to match the record-breaking pace he set last season, when he reached his centu-

ry on November 5. Referring to a series of whip suspensions, he said: "I've had more days off than winners."

He made up further lost time in the next two races, completing a treble of odds-on winners through Dark Stranger, for Pipe in the Play Off, at Lingfield, Novices' Chase, and Gates Charn, who landed the mares' novice hurdle for Robert Alner. Pipe has now reached a hundred in 13 consecutive seasons.

Tim Forster, trainer of Well To Do, Ben Nevis and Last Suspect, and Dick Saunders, rider of Grimir, were yesterday named among five members of the Jockey Club's new Grand National entry review panel.

After the second jorkei stage in

March, the panel can recommend voiding the entry of any horse considered unsuitably equipped for the perils of the Martell race. Chris Collins, its chairman, said that the panel would "ensure that no decisions are taken lightly or without a full understanding of what is required of a horse at Aintree". Other safety precautions being introduced at Aintree include a pre-race visit after veterinary inspection.

The race itself closed yesterday with 103 entries including the last three winners in Earth Summit, Lord Cygnet and Rough Quest. Doubtful Thriller, who beat Teetot Mill in a brother chase at Cheltenham last spring, demonstrates his credentials on his first start for the in-form Paul Nicholls at Wincanton today.

KITTY WARD-THOMAS NOVICES CHASE

(£3,951; 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 492 RIVER WYE 20 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-11-10 — J. Tizzard 124
2 421 PARAPHERALIA 230 (G.L.S.) (H. Mallett) J. Mallett 9-1-15 — R. Scott 122
3 112 LANCASHIRE JET 31 (H.F.G.) (H. M. A. H. Peter-Perry) H. Dally 9-10-13 5. Wyman 122
4 122 BURGESS CASTLE 25 (G.L.S.) (Mrs U. C. Smith) H. Dally 9-10-13 — R. Scott 122
5 471 STANLEY COAST 27 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Mallett 122

BETTING: 5-4 Double Trifecta, 7-2 Maheud Castle, 9-2 Lancaster 6-1 5-Shap Command, 7-1 Shap Command.

1998: RIVER WYE 10-0 7-0 P. Hobbs 7-2 R. Alner 7 ran

THUNDERER 150 Jet Boys 2-20 Round Robin in 2.50 River Wye. 20-0 TONOCO (nap). 3.50 Buckland Lad. 4-20 Roman Lord.

GONG: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

SIS

1 210 MISTY CLASS 150 Jet Boys 2-20 Round Robin in 2.50 River Wye. 20-0 TONOCO (nap). 3.50 Buckland Lad. 4-20 Roman Lord.

2 222 RUMBLE 27 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

3 200 KINNOCK PET 21 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

4 201 MAHEUD CASTLE 22 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

5 202 STANLEY COAST 27 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

6 203 TONOCO 27 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

7 204 BUCKLAND LAD 27 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

8 205 ROMAN LORD 27 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

9 206 RUMBLE 27 (D.F. G.) (P. Hobbs) P. Hobbs 9-1-15 — J. Tizzard 120

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CYCLING

Yates sets sights firmly on Tour de France

SEAN YATES, one of Britain's elite group of former Tour de France stage winners, is masterminding the three-year racing plan leading to Tour de France participation for the Linda McCartney cycling team, which launched its 1999 squad in London yesterday.

"We're becoming a big team now and as such our sights are on the big prize," Yates said. "We definitely want to be in the Tour de France."

Backed by a budget of £1 million, Yates, who retired from European professionalism in 1996 after competing in 12 Tour de France races, is continuing the development process begun by the sponsorship of Linda McCartney last year and continuing, after her death, under Sir Paul McCartney. The sponsors are committed to backing the team until 2002 and have retained an option for a further two-year involvement.

"I think Sir Paul's mission is to carry on what Linda started and believed in," Yates explained. "She really liked the idea of the cycling team and of promoting the sport and vegetarian food."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW COWIE



Newton sends the pigeons flying at the launch of the Linda McCartney cycling team in London yesterday

JEREMY WHITTLE
reports on a team who hope they have a recipe for success

This isn't a corporate sport, it's a family-scale organisation that wants to carry on what was started last year."

British cycling's leading young talent, Chris Newton, who finished eighth overall in the Prudential Tour of Britain last year, is one of the 17 vegetarian riders signed by the team. They will split their programme between British events and top-level races in Europe. With the week-long Prudential Tour of Britain, which takes place in May, in mind, Yates and his multinational team are embarking on a punishing schedule of stage races, including the Tour of Langkawi in Malaysia next month, several European stage races and the Peace Race in the Czech Republic.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW COWIE

"The ProTour is our priority this year," Yates said, "but there's no point putting young riders into races in which they get thoroughly shattered, as it doesn't do anything for them. We're concentrating on building a platform from which to expand the team and if we do well this year and the sponsor gets a good return, then over the next two years they will support the further growth of the team."

"Me and the kids are really happy to support the Linda McCartney cycling team," McCartney said. "This 'clean machine' proves that vegetarians aren't all carrot-munching weedy freaks, and keeps alive the memory of our beloved Linda."

In addition to Newton and Julian Winn, the 1998 ProTour stage-winner, the team brings together a clutch of young Australian riders and well-known British stalwarts such as Johnny Clay, as well as Chris Llywelyn and Chris Walker — both former Milk Race winners.

Yates, who hopes to use his contacts in Europe to enhance the team's international reputation over the next year, is well aware of the task his riders face.

"Coming from the background of racing that they have had, even the smaller European races are a big leap for them," he said. "But we want to be competitive and in the thick of the action. Once we have achieved some good results, then we'll take stock."

With a London Tour de France start rumoured for early next century and the present ethical crisis having a negative impact on leading European sponsors, Yates is optimistic that a Tour call will come sooner rather than later.

"Until now the Tour's been a law unto itself," Yates said, "but with the new ethical stance taken by the race organisation, they may be forced to look elsewhere for teams that fit the bill. That may work in our favour, because ours is a clean, vegetarian lifestyle and we intend to stay that way."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW COWIE

Forrester relishes treble chance

SARAH POTTER



It seems appropriate that Steph Forrester earned three sporting Blues during her Cambridge University days for five years. She is the women's British triathlon champion. Having only taken up the sport three seasons ago, the Scot intends to swim the 1,500 metres, cycle the 40 kilometres and run the 10 kilometres fast enough to win a medal at the sport's Olympic debut in the 2000 Games in Sydney.

Yet full-time commitment for this former chemical process engineer only began in November, when National Lottery funding was confirmed. Since then, Forrester has swapped winter in Huddersfield for summer in Sydney and will join the Great Britain squad in South Africa after they fly out next week for a two-month training camp.

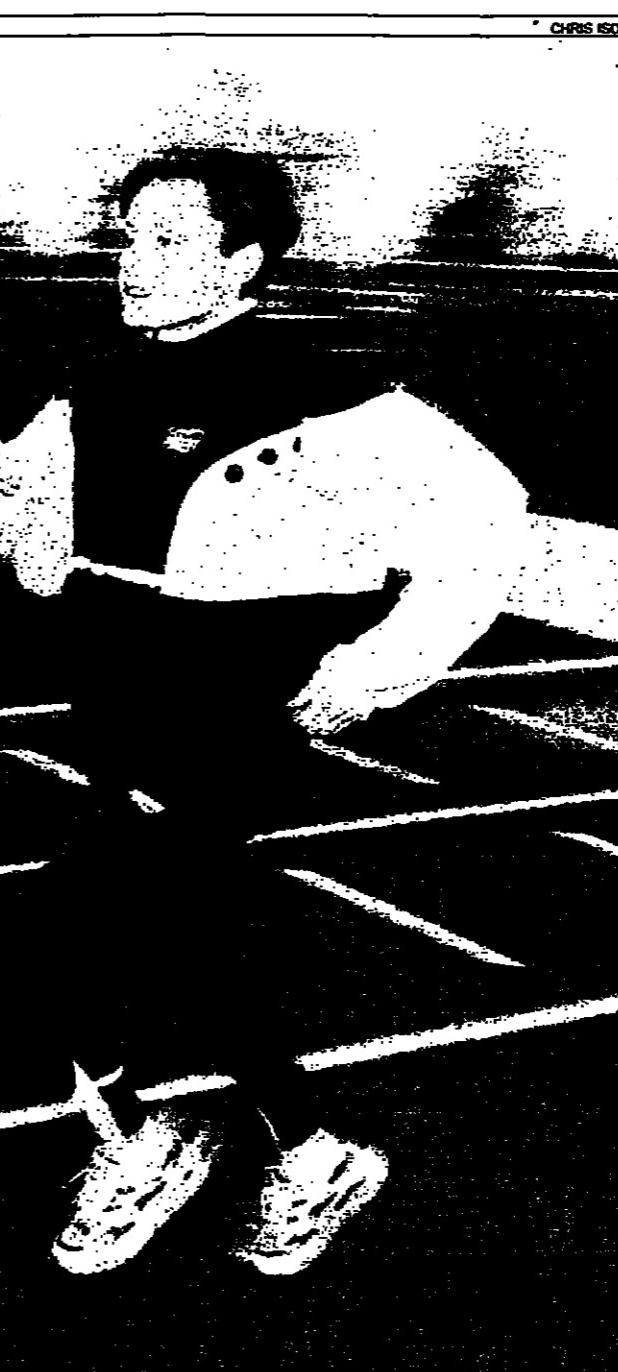
"It was extremely hard juggling work and training," she said. "But in some ways I like that because it makes you a tougher person. Getting up at 4am to cycle around Huddersfield in winter is not the nicest feeling, but when I turned up in Japan for the first race last season and looked at the course and looked at the starting line, I appreciated what I'd been through to get there."

Forrester admits that even her own family have questioned her sanity. "Most of my family live in Aberdeen and can't really believe what I'm doing. It probably seems like I've spent eight years at university to get a good degree and career prospects, just to throw it away on triathlon. But they feel better now because they've seen my results and realise I'm good enough. I've been involved in sport since I was 10, but never

shown enough ability to go full time in anything."

Nevertheless, Forrester swam for Scotland during the mid-1980s. "I took it very seriously," she said. "It was a tough routine, training twice a day early mornings and evenings, but I loved it. More so than the competition, because I'm not a swimmer."

That realisation came in 1987, while at Edinburgh University. "I was swimming pretty badly," she said. "It was a combination of not getting on with the coach and putting



Forrester pounds around the track during a recent training stint at Bath University

most emphasis on my course, because I was enjoying it so much."

Four years later, Cambridge University opened her mind to other sports and fired an interest in triathlon. "I did swim for a year or so, to get my Blue for my CV to be honest," she said. "But I played football, which is huge at Cambridge, with 45 women's teams in the inter-collegiate league, because it was something I always wanted to do. When I was going through the influential stage, Aber-

deen were one of the best clubs in Europe. They won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1983 and the whole city was football mad."

Forrester became the university captain and passed an FA coaching certificate. It also led to her second Blue. "It's also easier to get a Blue at Cambridge than it is at Edinburgh," she said. "The system at Cambridge was a complete joke because it was so political."

However, she was delighted to receive her third honour

"I'm going for the Olympics, and giving up my job and flat doesn't worry me"

— in athletics. "A friend of mine started to drag me out running after he'd started to train with a Kiwi guy who'd done a lot of triathlons," she said. "I got into the athletics team at university and stepped on the track for the first time at the beginning of May in my final year. About four weeks later I had my Blue."

Her sporting ambitions became set on triathlon and she took a two-year post-doctoral position at Sydney University to test her ability. "I picked it because of triathlon," Forrester said. "I wanted somewhere warm to train but also to have some fun because I worked pretty hard to get my PhD."

Within six months she sustained a stress fracture of her ankle. "I did too much training," she said. "I wasn't able to run for almost a year but that helped me to adjust to cycling. I hadn't done much before so it was actually very exciting, seeing this rapid improvement in my times. It did cross my mind to stay in Australia, but I wanted to come back and make the British team."

Next she wants Olympic gold. "I was five minutes behind the winner in the world championships last August," she said. "But if I'd improved my swimming by 30 seconds I would have got into a better biking pack. That could have cost three minutes, so I know I'm close. Beating the Australians will be tough, but I'm going for the Olympics, and giving up my job and my flat doesn't worry me. For this chance, I'll cope with whatever comes into my path."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
When the defenders have winners in two suits, judging which to cash can be difficult. This example is from the 1998 Gold Cup semi-final between Cohen and Price.

Dealer North Love all IMPs

♦ KQ7
♥ 1032
♦ 755
♣ QJ107
6 A9
5 Q875
4 K34
3 A543
♦ 865432
♥ V93
♦ A83
♣ K8

W N E S
— Paces
Double 25
3 C Paces 25
All Paces

Contract: Three Spades by South; Lead: four of diamonds.

I was East, playing with Howard Cohen. My double of North's Two Spades was "responsive", not neutral; it says I want to compete the partcore.

Declarer (David Price) took the queen of diamonds with the ace and continued with the king of clubs. West should duck this, but he won, cashed the king of diamonds and when I played the ten, switched to a low heart. I played the king and declarer won with the ace. Now declarer erred by playing a spade — had he played clubs, throwing away red losers, the defence have no chance.

West correctly took the ace of spades, and now we were in the cash-out situation I mention above. Deciding to play me for an initial heart holding of Kx, he led queen and another heart, and so

declarer could ruff, draw trumps and get his diamond away on a club.

There were two separate ways in which West should get the situation right. First, he could continue with a low heart after winning the ace of spades. Then when East wins with the jack he can tell that West must have four hearts (else he would have led queen and another). So East switches to a diamond, playing West for the jack. The other way West can tell that East has four diamonds and four hearts is that with three hearts and five diamonds, East would have bid Three Diamonds over Two Spades; he would not double, implying he had no clear bid.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NOIX
a. Night
b. The thigh
c. A French Department

FAHAM
a. A bluff
b. A sage
c. Sun-dried meat

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

London Clubs

The final of the London Clubs knockout tournament resulted in a 3-1 win for Home House against The Athenaeum. The Athenaeum side was weakened by the absence of Shaun Taubut, their board one, a former European junior champion. Taubut, a city banker, was unavoidably detained by the Brazilian currency crisis.

Here are two games from the final match. In one game, Bob Wade, the former British champion, playing for Home House, overcomes an unusual attack, while in the other Arthur Freeman, representing The Athenaeum, pulls off a fine queen sacrifice to turn the tables in an apparently desperate situation.

White: Ali Mortawzi
Black: Arthur Freeman
London Clubs, 1999
Scandinavian defence

Diagram of final position

White resigns

Black: Kester George

London Clubs, 1999
Bogo-Indian defence

1 e4 e5

2 c4 Nf6

3 d4 Bg5

4 Bf4 Bxf2+

5 Qd2 0-0

6 Nc3 d5

7 e3 Ne4

8 Qc2 f5

9 Nf5 c6

10 Bd3 Nd7

11 c5 exd5

12 d4 Qh4+

13 g3 Neg3

14 Qf2 Ne5

15 Bg5 Nc6

16 Bxf3 Qxf3

17 Qe3+ Qxf2

18 Qd2+ Qxf2

19 Qd1+ Qxf2

20 Qd2+ Qxf2

21 Qd1+ Qxf2

22 Qd2+ Qxf2

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61 Qd1+ Qxf2

Doctor with the right prescription for future of Games

One of the first visits by a member of the International Olympic Committee to an "Olympic venue" was not to Salt Lake City or Nagano, but to the sleepy Shropshire town of Much Wenlock. The visit was made long ago by the mighty Baron Pierre de Coubertin, and true to what was to become a controversial Olympic practice, he was given a priceless gift — in this case it was the complete blueprint for the revival of the modern Olympic Games.

It was given to him by a colourful local hero, Dr William Penny Brookes, who started his own version of the games modelled on those of classical Greece in 1850. De Coubertin liked the idea so much that, in time, he was to claim it for his own, but after meeting Brookes he noted: "If the Olympic Games, that modern Greece has not yet been able to revive, still survives today it is due, not to a

Greek, but to Dr William Penny Brookes."

The old baron should have paid even closer attention to the good doctor, for when the two sat down together in the low-beamed bar of an old Wenlock coaching inn, the

De Coubertin liked the idea so much that he claimed it himself'

Gaskell Arms, there was one point over which they fiercely disagreed — the siting of the revived games.

Norman Wood, now the general secretary of the Wenlock Olympian Society, said: "It is ironic with all this trouble going on with

Samaranch today that Dr Brookes wanted the games sited permanently in Greece."

Brookes had built up strong contacts with Greece over the staging of his games and in 1877 George I, the Greek king, donated a silver cup to be awarded to the winner of the pentathlon. Brookes paraded banners with Greek inscriptions at his games and winners were honoured with laurel branches and medals bearing the image of Nike — the Greek goddess of victory.

De Coubertin, by contrast, thought that the games would have more impact if they were hawked from continent to continent like a travelling circus. The trouble is, of course, that touring the Games from greedy city to greedy city has landed the Olympics in its biggest mess since 1896.

Since that first meeting the two Olympic movements have headed in completely different directions. They both still survive, though

unexploited, unnoticed and virtually broke. Their problem with money is simple. They don't have any.

A couple of months ago the house in which Brookes was born and lived came up for sale. For years it had been the headquarters of the local branch of Lloyds Bank and the Wenlock Olympian Committee would dearly have loved to have bought it to house their treasured archives. Their appeals to English Heritage and other funding bodies came to nothing and the house was sold to a private buyer for around £200,000. It is not just the people of Much Wenlock who are fuming at this missed opportunity.

John Disney, a former Olympic steeplechaser and now chairman of the Olympians, a club made up of British Olympic competitors, said: "Here is a national sporting site of special importance to the history of sport. Why should we ex-

pect a very small town to preserve it for posterity? They simply can't afford it yet nobody seems to want to help them. Just imagine if the Germans discovered that they had 'invented' the Olympic Games in 1850. Somebody like Mercedes Samaranch.

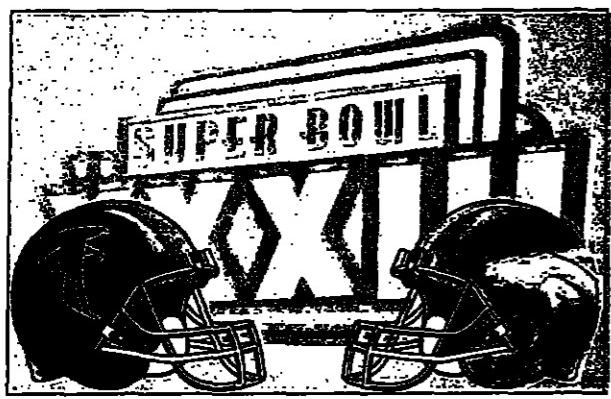
Much Wenlock has had a regal-like visit from Samaranch. He was there in 1994 to mark the 100th anniversary of the foundation in Paris of what was to become the International Olympic Committee. In Lausanne, the IOC had decided that it was time to settle their debt to Dr Brookes, but on this occasion the Olympic supremo left behind him neither wealth nor scandal.

In return for their blueprint of the modern Olympic Games, Much Wenlock received an oak tree — a Spanish oak tree, planted by His Excellency Juan Antonio Samaranch.

JOHN BRYANT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

'RomoCop' to give no quarter to Falcons



FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MIAMI

THEY call him "the anti-Elway", the dirtiest player in the National Football League (NFL). He is the kind of player that they are trying to airbrush out of this sport, somebody whose excesses are made to seem like an anachronism by the official version of American football that the authorities love to propagate. In that land of anaesthesia, there are no career-ending injuries, no spitting, no gouging, no trench warfare and no room for men such as Bill Romanowski.

Romanowski has become a curiosity. When he appeared at the media day in Pro Player Stadium here on Tuesday, journalists came to stare at him as though they had been allowed into a zoo to gape at a wild animal. They call him a "throwback", someone who plays this game the way it used to be played, back when gridiron fields still got mucky and O.J. Simpson had sideburns.

If the Denver Broncos beat the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday to win their second successive Super Bowl, though, they will owe as much to the scrapping, barging, grappling efforts of their linebacker as they will to the elegant throws of their quarterback, John Elway, or the bulldozing rushing of their running back, Terrell Davis. The Broncos' offence gets most of the praise for their success, but Romanowski is the raging pulse of a defense that has got plenty of fans of its own.

Romanowski's creed is destruction. Creativity is his



Romanowski's fearsome reputation even has some of his Denver Broncos team-mates worried for their safety. Photograph: Marc Aspinall

enemy and his vocabulary is peppered with words such as "hurt", "lift", "shake" and "ratte". If Denver are to win, they will have to unsettle the Atlanta offense, with its twin weapons of Chris Chandler, the quarterback, and Jamal Anderson, the running back. "RomoCop" will attempt it by any means necessary.

His notoriety hit new heights last season when he spat in the face of J.J. Stokes during a game against the San Francisco 49ers that was being televised live from coast to coast. And that was after Romanowski had grabbed Stokes in the groin *à la* Vinnie Jones on *Gazza*.

Other highlights have been a kick administered to the head of a fallen Phoenix Cardinal, a flying headbutt that broke the jaw of Kerry Collins, the Carolina Panthers' quarterback, and some late hits on the legendary Jerry Rice that sparked a brawl during training. And Rice was on the same team.

This season he has been tame by comparison. There was just the time that he took out Troy Aikman, the Dallas Cowboys' quarterback, breaking his collarbone and putting him out of action for six weeks. "People were upset; didn't show enough sorrow for him," Romanowski sneered. "I just said, 'I couldn't believe he didn't slide out of bounds. As for Collins, that was all about the angle I hit him. Jerry turned his head just as I nailed him.'

Even at the media day,

Romanowski, 32, exuded quiet menace that was all the more fearsome for his control and politeness. He is not as obviously bulky as some of his defensive colleagues, but he possesses the kind of brooding, American blue-collar aggression captured so well in *The Deer Hunter*. The noisy ones who go around saying they are so tough usually aren't.

Mike Shanahan, the Broncos' coach, said: "It's those silent guys you aren't expecting that from whom'll sneak up and crack you."

His opponents say he is more than sneaky. "Dirty", "cheap" and "classless" are three of the more generous descriptions that have been offered this week. "Sometimes I wish I was able to play way back 20 or 30 years ago, when being mean and dirty and nasty or whatever they call me was praised rather than criticized," Romanowski said. "Old players keep coming up to me saying, 'Keep it up, Romo.' That's great, as long as they pay my fines. I keep playing like this, and I'm going to

end up in the poorhouse. When I think of a throw-back player, I think of a guy who goes out there and plays every play as if it was his last. I don't try to hurt people, but if you can put a hit on somebody and shake them up for a while, that is what the game is all about. When you can knock people out of the game, you give your team an advantage and that is what it is all about. I just want to do the best for my team."

Romanowski, who won two Super Bowls with the 49ers before he moved to Denver, spends more than \$100,000 of his \$1.4 million (about \$850,000) annual salary on employing a fitness trainer who used to be an Olympic athlete, as well as a chiropractor and a dietitian. For a "paid consultant" — a team-mate's descrip-

tion — he is a clinical, calculating player. But the rages he works himself into before games have also become the stuff of anecdotes in the Broncos' locker-room.

"I'd become close friends with him," Bubby Brister, the back-up quarterback, said, "spent a lot of time together — wives, kids, everything. Then first pre-season game, I'm laughing it up in the locker-room, slapping Romo in the pads. He looks up, real slow. He's sweating, breathing hard, shaking, working up the rage. I thought, 'What in hell is this?' We're talking weird, Lunatic time. Jekyll and Hyde stuff."

Shanahan has witnessed it too. "I see Romo's eyes glaze over," he said. "I know he wants to whack anybody walking down the street. You can see he's making up real bad stuff that opponents might have done to his family."

On Sunday night, Romanowski will be thinking about Chandler and Anderson. And they will be thinking about him.

www.rfl.com
TELEVISION:
Sky Sports One, Sunday
10.30pm (live)



At work: Romanowski sends a Green Bay Packer flying

SNOW REPORTS						
SKI CLUB	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to Resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow	
	L	U	Piste	Off-p	°C	
Adams	80	100	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -4
Austria						
Aschau	15	82	Fair	Open	Varietd	Snow 1
Obsteig	35	175	Fair	Hard	Varietd	Snow -5
Söll	20	70	Good	Open	Varietd	Snow -4
Canada						
Lake Louise	100	131	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud -8
France						
Alpe d'Huez	65	100	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -5
Flaine	50	225	Good	Open	Powder	Snow 0
Le Clusaz	50	150	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -5
La Plagne	95	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow 0
La Tania	92	128	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -2
Modane	50	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow 0
Menédel	70	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow 3
Tignes	61	161	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -5
Val Thorens	70	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -5
Val d'Isère	100	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -5
Italy						
Cervinia	20	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -7
Cortina	35	60	Good	Hard	Varietd	Snow 0
Sci di Campolongo	50	100	Good	Open	Varietd	Snow 0
Norway						
Galo	70	70	Good	Open	Varietd	Snow -6
Switzerland						
Crans Montana	30	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -1
Verbier	35	130	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -2
Mürren	50	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -6
St. Moritz	47	205	Good	Open	Varietd	Snow -6
Verbier	20	80	Good	Some	Varietd	Snow -2
Zermatt	55	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -1
United States						
Aspen	-105	130	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud -9
Over Valley	155	170	Good	Open	Powder	Snow 0
	L = lower slopes U = upper slopes					

GOLF

Golfing greats awarded lap of honour at Millennium Open

BY MEL WEBB

WITH each succeeding week, the European Tour gets further away from Europe. Having spent the first two tournaments of the season in South Africa, the flying circus has decamped to Australia for week three. The players could not go much further without starting to come back.

There were young faces and some not so young abroad yesterday at The Vines, on the outer fringes of Perth, where the Heineken Classic starts today, but the more senior citizens were not looking to the past, as they are sometimes wont to do, but into the future.

Lee Trevino and Gary Player were yesterday celebrating the fact that they and others of a similarly distinguished lineage will be putting on their own special sidebar at the Millennium Open Championship at St Andrews next year.

satisfactory start to the season by winning the South African PGA title and finishing sixth in his country's Open.

El's lives for major championships but last season was a moderate one in that respect. His best finish was sixteenth in the Masters, but with a troublesome back injury putting him off the green, he is looking for a much better year. Sixteenth was also Ian Woosnam's best major finish in 1998, but for the moment winning anything would do for the Welshman whose last victory was nearly 18 months ago.

Meanwhile, David Duval, whose 59 to win the Bob Hope Classic on Sunday will five with him forever, faces tough opposition in the Phoenix Open, which also starts today.

Leading them is Ernie Els, the big, amiable and wondrously gifted South African who has made a more than

SQUASH

Hallamshire sweep to the top by employing home help

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

With the world's leading men still involved in the Tournament of Champions in New York this week, Hallamshire's decision to retain a largely domestically-employed squad paid off with a 3-2 home win over Manchester Northern that took the Sheffield side to the top of group A in the SRA National League for the first time with 24 points.

Manchester were without Graham Ryding and Nick Taylor, their two top players, but Phil Whinck, who defends his over-35 title at the Business Pages' National Championships in Manchester next week, contributed a 3-1 second-round away point against Adam Toombs, and Suzanne Power, the world champion, in the semi-finals.

Nicol might otherwise have been leading Chingford's UK Packaging squad against Loughborough, whose normal first string, Alex Gough, lost another quarter-final in New York to Ahmed Barada of Egypt. Led by Julian Wellings, the Chingford side recorded a 4-1 home win to stay top of group B with 30 points.

Parke normally leads for Nottingham in the National League, but was ably replaced by a 4-1 group A home victory over Dorking by Lee Beachill, with Natalie Grainger, of South Africa, brought in to ensure the fifth-string point against Tunis' Ali.

UniS Guildford also had a 4-1 home win, over Lee-on-Solent, to stay top of group C with 32 points, despite the absence of Paul Johnson, their England No 1, who needed five hard games to defeat Del Harris for a semi-final place in New York against Barada. Harris is scheduled to meet Johnson again in the national quarter-finals next week.

Martin Fletcher explains why 30,000 Ulstermen will invade Dublin on Saturday

Rugby unites troubled Province

Such an army of fans will be following Ulster's rugby team to Dublin for the European Cup final against Colomiers on Saturday that one enterprising Belfast publican, Sydney John, tried to charter a high-speed ferry for 750 supporters to avoid the crush.

His efforts failed. All he could find was an old tub that would take six hours. John and 15 of his bar staff instead queued at Belfast railway station from 3am last Saturday to snap up 160 train tickets for his most valued customers the moment they went on sale.

"It's unbelievable," he said of the excitement that the game is generating in Northern Ireland. He has not seen an event that has united this divided province quite like this since Barry McGuigan fought Euzebio Pedrosa for the world featherweight title at Loftus Road in 1985.

More than 30,000 supporters will be invading the Irish Republic for the biggest game in Ulster rugby's history, and another 30,000 failed to get tickets. The Automobile Association has warned that the notoriously awful road between Belfast and Dublin — a reflection of the fraught relations between north and south — will "take a real hammering". Translink, Northern Ireland's bus and railway company, is laying on eight trains, some borrowed from the Republic, and about 100 coaches and mini-buses. "It's huge, absolutely huge," said a Translink spokeswoman. "From a public transport point of view, we have never carried this amount of people to one event."

David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland's Unionist and Nationalist leaders, will be there. So will Mary McAleese, the Irish President, Bertie Ahern, Ireland's Taoiseach, and Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. For the first time, Lansdowne Road will witness the extraordinary sight of a capacity crowd of 49,000 cheering "Ulster, Ulster", and waving the red-and-white Ulster flags that are more commonly used



The Ulster players and their supporters celebrate together after the nail-biting semi-final victory over Stade Français at Ravenhill earlier this month

to stake out loyalist territory in the North.

It will be the biggest attendance yet at a European Cup final, and as Jean-Luc Sadoury, the French international who captains Colomiers, said last week: "Ulster will have an extra player on the pitch and that will be the crowd."

Most sports in Northern Ireland are viewed as Catholic or Protestant, and rugby is no exception. Nationalists would normally feel as little affinity for the game invented by William Webb Ellis at an English public school as they do for cricket, and stick-to-Gaelic football and hurling. Cup fever has not yet reached such a

pitch that Gerry Adams, of Sinn Féin, is planning to attend the game, but when Gaelic football clubs start applying for tickets and the Nationalist *Irish News* carries the results of Colomiers's games in France, it is clear that the traditional sectarian barriers have at least temporarily been lowered.

This is hardly surprising. The Province has had precious little to smile about or celebrate over the past 30 years, and so seizes every chance. Moreover sport has a unique capacity for catching the imagination, and only the

most hardline Republican could fail to concede that Ulster's epic, giant-killing journey to the final has been utterly compelling.

This is a team that was los-

ing 14-0 after just four minutes

regular places in Ireland's team, wings who are often only substitutes for Ballymena, and a 35-year-old prop who four years ago was playing social rugby only.

It is a team of indomitable

spirit that beat the two best teams in France in the quarter and semi-finals, and the groundsman, Brian Elliott,

year, but that should in no way detract from Ulster's achievement.

Michael Reid, chief executive of the Irish Rugby Football Union's Ulster branch, has no illusions that his team's success will bring any lasting unity, but he does believe its achievements will hasten the day when rugby ceases to be viewed as a Protestant sport.

At a time when his organisation is making strenuous efforts to promote the game in Catholic schools and colleges "it can only help," he says. "At the moment the heroes of a child in a Catholic area are going to be Gaelic sports heroes. We're now offering them other heroes."

Saturday will provide Simon Mason with the ideal stage on which to remind the Ireland selectors of his talents. There was surprise in the province when Ulster's leading points scorer — 126 points in Europe this season — was overlooked from the national training squad released 48 hours after the victory over Stade Français, but a packed house at Lansdowne Road will test Mason's maturity.

The former Richmond full back, now 25, can only make the replacements bench of the A team to play France at Donnybrook on February 5 and if he is to add to the three full caps he won in 1996, he has to force past Conor O'Shea.

ULSTER'S Simon Mason; S Coulter, J Cunningham, J Bell, A Park, D Humphreys (captain), C MacHale, J Fitzpatrick, A Clarke, R Irwin, M Bell, G McNamee, S McNamee, A McNamee, Representatives S McDowell, B Cunningham, S Bell, D Topping, S Duncan, G Leslie, D Wallace

Gatland must go either with the tried and trusted Eric Elwood as his pivot, or with Humphreys, who has been in inspirational form as captain of his province. But part of Ireland's pre-Christmas problem was the inability of their back division to pose a consistent threat or, indeed, any threat at all at a time when they possess a combative pack.

Gatland and Elwood go back a long way in Connacht rugby and the coach knows precisely what he can extract from a player who is also his country's goalkicker. If he opts for Humphreys, Gatland must also give the goalkicking duties to Humphreys or to Coor O'Shea, neither of whom kick regularly for province or club, but Humphreys is playing so confidently that he may be preferred.

Of Ulster's other three representatives, Jonathan Bell and Andy Ward are certain starters, but Justin Fitzpatrick must serve his time behind the experienced props, Peter Clohessy and Paul Wallace.

There may be surprise in Munster that David Corkery has not found a place among the back-row forwards, but Gatland is keeping his options open by naming Eric Miller and Victor Costello alongside Ward and Dion O'Conor, who will surely be the first-choice flankers.

Graham Henry, the Wales coach, is almost certain to be without Gareth Thomas, the Cardiff wing, who is still recovering from a shoulder operation, going into his first Five Nations experience against Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday week. Henry may also be without Craig Quinnell, the Richmond lock who suffered knee damage in his club's 23-11 Premiership defeat by Leicester on Tuesday. Allan Bateman may provide cover on the wing rather than his club position of centre.

IRELAND SQUAD (v France): Backs: C O'Shea (London Irish), G Humphreys (Teviot College), J Blakely (London Irish), J Bell (London Irish), S McNamee (London Irish), D Henderdene (Wasps), E Elwood (Gavegians), D Humphreys (Dunfermline), C MacNamee (St Mary's College), C Scully (UCD). Forwards: R Crotty (Lansdowne), J Fitzpatrick (Dunfermline), P Clohessy (Young Munster), P Wallace (Scarborough), J Doherty (London Irish), M O'Kelly (London Irish), P Jones (Scarborough), V Costello (St Mary's College), E Miller (London Irish), E Wallace (Teviot College), D O'Conor (Galwegians). Wales Squad (v Scotland): Backs: S Hurrell (Scarlets), K Edwards (Cardiff), D James (Pontypridd), M Robinson (Swansea), G Thomas (Cardiff), A Bate (Richmond), M Taylor (Swansea), S Gibbons (Scarborough), R Jones (Porthmadog), R Howley (Cardiff), D Llewellyn (Ebbw Vale), P. Williams (Llanelli), J Davies (Cardiff), J Williams (Cardiff), J Williams (Cardiff), Anthony (Scarborough), J Humphreys (Cardiff), B Williams (Richmond), C O'Callaghan (Richmond), D Wyllie (Llanelli), M Vorley (Scarborough), G Garside (Scarborough), C Chevallier (Swansea), G Lewis (Pontypridd), M Williams (Pontypridd), S Calvert (Llanelli).

Russ happy to beat his drum to different tune

Christopher Irvine meets the coach plotting a cup upset

Tony Russ spent six years as director of rugby at Leicester when they and Bath hogged the prizes, but those times are a fading memory. Heady days at Welford Road have given way to grim economic reality in the rugby backwater of Liverpool. Monday morning at Blundellsands and £400 gate receipts from the previous match on Saturday is meagre even by the standards of Waterloo Drummies.

In the bar of the wooden clubhouse, Russ, 52, director of rugby at Waterloo, encapsulated the view of most clubs outside the Allied Dunbar Premiership elite. "I don't think there's any desire here to get into the first division," he said. "We simply couldn't hack it financially. The objective of the likes of Waterloo is to manage your resources so you don't go bust, and within those limitations, to be as successful as you can."

Waterloo occupy fifth place in the second division. On Sunday, they are away at

Wasps in the Tetley's Cup fifth round. "Of course, I miss visiting those places and we're all looking forward to it, but I hardly see it as a plum tie. It's going to be hard to win and we're not going to make that much money, but you've only got to look what Henley did to Bedford to see what's possible," he said.

In 1993, the year Leicester won the cup under Russ, Waterloo sprung one of the biggest surprises in the 27-year history of the competition when they eliminated Bath. The cup holds mostly happy memories for Russ, but also the bitter one of his departure from Leicester in March 1996.

Leicester had just reached their third final in four years and were eyeing a second successive league title when he

was shown the door. The timing had stalled Russ's rise. "In the end Leicester lost the league and cup, which I'm not saying had anything to do with me leaving, but I never saw the sense in not waiting," Russ said.

The trouble was that we were being massively criticised for our style of play, but we were merely playing to our strengths. The board didn't like the flank and weathered the director of rugby.

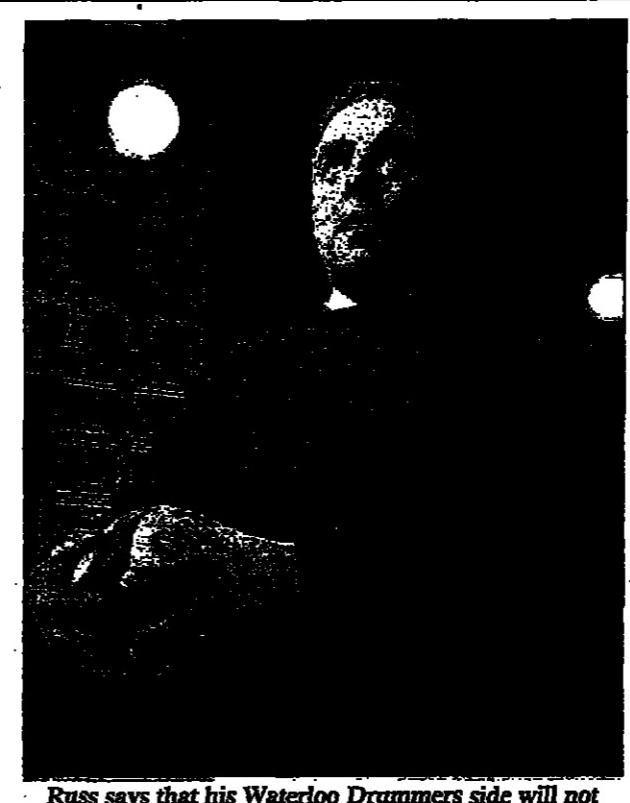
On Saturday, Russ will be in front of the television in his white shirt cheering for Ulster, whose chances of beating Colomiers in the European Cup final he rates marginally higher than his own side

of an upset at Loftus Road. "It's that old boot, bite and balls cliché. We're not going to beat them on fitness, skill or tactics, but maybe on effort," Russ said.

As to the money Waterloo hoped to attract once Russ was installed, none has materialised. He was promised a £15,000 bonus for promotion — "and Father Christmas lives," he said. The caustic humour is symptomatic of rugby's ills and the fears that Russ has for the wider game if the first-division clubs ever ring-fence an Anglo-Welsh league.

"This sport is now financially driven, but create a self-perpetuating elite and remove promotion and relegation and what incentive is there for a club like Waterloo?" he said. "After three years mismanagement when the game's lost sight of the ball and concentrated on the action in committee rooms, even the lifelong enthusiast gets a bit jaundiced."

Not you fancy, if the Drummers and Ulster both triumph this weekend.



Russ says that his Waterloo Drummies side will not be beaten by Wasps on Sunday through lack of effort

'Appalling' RFU faces challenge

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) has arranged a special general meeting on March 28 for consideration of the streamlining proposals set in train by the working party of Bud Rogers, the junior vice-president of the union; but instead they may find their own management board forcibly streamlined if the Reform Group can carry the day.

The self-styled group, established as a support body for Clive Brittle and Alan Courtney (then president) both held office on the RFU management board, has accused the present board of bringing the game in England into disarray and seeks a vote of no confidence.

In this respect they have mainly bided their time; the group threatened to press for a special general meeting last autumn after Brittle lost the chairmanship of the RFU board but decided instead to hold a watching brief. Now their patience has run out, after seeing an embattled RFU climb down last week from confrontation with their partners on the Five Nations Committee.

"The game is in crisis," Mervyn Thomas, the Reform Group chairman, said yesterday. "The RFU management

Carling voted best of British

An in-depth survey of the game — conducted on behalf of Lloyds TSB, the new sponsors of the Five Nations Championship — reveals some interesting statistics. Almost 60 per cent of those questioned felt the Five Nations was more exciting than the Tri-Nations. Wales were voted the most passionate nation in the championship, and the All Blacks the best team in the world.

The respondents were divided equally on whether professionalism had been good or bad for the game, but the results provided a glimmer of hope for Will Carling, who is contemplating a new career in Japan. He was considered, by some distance, the best British player of the last 25 years.

Carling's supporters will be relieved to hear that it will conformatly raise the 100 clubs needed to press for an SGM. Their suggestion is that their no confidence in the board — from which they specifically exclude Peter Trunkfield, the RFU president — should be heard at the March 28 meeting.

Whether their chief target — Brian Butter, voted in as chairman last July — deserves such flak after six months' fire-fighting is a moot point, while Francis Baron, the new chief executive, has had only three months in office.

missed cues, there wasn't much harmony and some of the guys couldn't stop laughing. It took two hours to record, but I haven't heard the finished product yet," he said. Sounds like a collector's item.

Motley brew

Who said beer had no place in the modern, clean-cut professional game? **Loose Talk** is indebted to CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* for the following England XV, whose names (just about) are also that of breweries. We make no apology for abusing the old spelling or possessive. Location of the brewery is in brackets:

Paul Hull (Mall), Andy Hancock (S) (Carmarthen), Alex King and Stuart Barnes (Newport), Richard Stamp (A) (Walesbridge), Malcolm Young (A) (Walesbridge), Kevin Young (A) (Walesbridge), Steve Price (A) (Walesbridge), The Recipe (Bristol), Sarah Archer (S) (Stowbridge), Jason Fidger (Old Bremerton, Newbury), Steve Fidger (Old Bremerton, Newbury), Jason Fidger (Old Bremerton, Newbury), John Scott (S) (Lancaster).

Matches, of course, to be played at The Brewery Field, Bridgend.

Quins off key

Football club songs have tended to be excruciatingly bad, so let's hope Harlequins' rendition of *The Mighty Quins* doesn't fall into that category. Last week the entire squad got together to record a cover version in aid of several charities, including the Richard Langhorn Trust. According to Jason "Luciano" Leonard, it won't make No 1. "Players

MARK SOUSTER

London Scottish attract new bid

BY MARK SOUSTER

A LEADING Scottish businessman emerged yesterday as a rival contender to buy London Scottish. Brian Kennedy, 38, who made his fortune from the Weatherhead window company, has been talking to Tony Tiarks, the club owner, for several days and hopes to conclude a deal by the weekend.

Whether that means London Scottish ultimately relocating to Edinburgh is unclear. If he is successful it would mean that Bristol had failed in their attempt to take over the club in order to ensure a place in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Malcolm Pearce, the Bristol owner, has been playing down his club's interest recently.

Sources close to Tiarks suggest the Monaco-based financier is confident that a sale will be secured by the weekend. Kennedy, whose business empire is based in Cheshire, has been keen to buy into a sports club. Last year, he sold his interest in the Bristol-based football club from Sir Tom Farmer of KwikFit.

Kennedy is understood to have held discussions with the Scottish Rugby Union about the proposed takeover. How the union would react to a Scottish-based professional club

MARK SOUSTER

FOOTBALL

McAteer's arrival cushions blow for Blackburn

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THE arrival of Jason McAteer could not have come at a better time for Blackburn Rovers. McAteer, the midfield player, yesterday completed a £4 million transfer from Liverpool while Tim Sherwood, the captain at Ewood Park, was preparing a move to Tottenham Hotspur.

McAteer, the Ireland international, had seen his career at Liverpool deteriorate in recent months and, once talks were opened, it did not take long for Brian Kidd, the Blackburn manager, to persuade McAteer that his future lay with the club.

Those same powers of persuasion failed when Sherwood was on the other side of the negotiating table. Sherwood, who has played more than 200 matches in the FA Carling Premiership for Blackburn, has made no secret of the fact that he wants a new challenge. He fell out with Roy Hodgson, the former manager at Blackburn, but then raised hopes that he would stay by reading positively to the appointment of Kidd as successor to Hodgson.

Kidd has revitalised the club's fortunes on the field but, ultimately, it came down to the size of financial contract Blackburn were willing to offer Sher-

wood. Despite the fact that there are still three years to run on his present deal, club officials met with Sherwood late on Tuesday night to thrash out their final offer.

Yesterday there was confirmation that the package, believed to be worth around £25,000 a week to Sherwood, was not enough. "We cannot go any further," John Williams, the chief executive, said.

Tottenham, who had one bid turned down earlier this season, are expected to make another attempt to take Sherwood back to his native South East, with Blackburn prepared to listen to offers starting at around £4 million.



McAteer: on move

West rejects move to Newcastle

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

RUUD GULLIT'S bid to sign Taribo West, the Internazionale and Nigerian centre half, ended in failure last night when the player rejected personal terms believed to be in excess of £30,000 per week. Despite Inter having agreed a £4.2 million transfer with Newcastle United, West has decided to stay and fight for his place at the San Siro stadium.

Given West's public spat with Mircea Lucescu, his side's new Romanian coach, that outcome had appeared a distant prospect when Newcastle officials travelled to Italy last week to begin negotiations for the player.

Optimism had been high, and coming on the back of the failed medical that foiled Ibrahim Ba's proposed £3 million transfer from Paris Saint-Germain last month, West's refusal to move to Tyneside is another significant blow for Gullit. The Newcastle man-

er remains hopeful, however, of signing Ba's team-mate, Alain Goma, 26, the defender.

Players' union officials are furious over reported remarks by Frank Leboeuf, the Chief executive, accusing them of having "too cosy a relationship" with the Football Association to cut down the number of matches that leading players have to play.

Gordon Taylor, the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, was abroad on business yesterday but a PFA spokesman said: "Gordon will be very upset if these comments are correct."

Aston Villa appeared to be edging ahead of Middlesbrough yesterday in the race to sign Juninho from Atlético Madrid when the Brazil midfield player travelled to Birmingham for talks.

Arsenal are reported to be having talks with Kaka Diawara, the Bordeaux striker, over a £3 million move.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

PRESENTS

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Wolverhampton GS 3
(Wolverhampton win 6-5 on penalties)

By Ivo TENNANT

PENALTY-TAKING is no less unnerving for a schoolboy than a seasoned professional. After six goals and extra time, Tom Newcombe, the Repton goalkeeper, was given the responsibility of keeping his team level with Wolverhampton Grammar School in the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Alas for him, his shot struck a post and the ball slithered away into the enveloping gloaming.

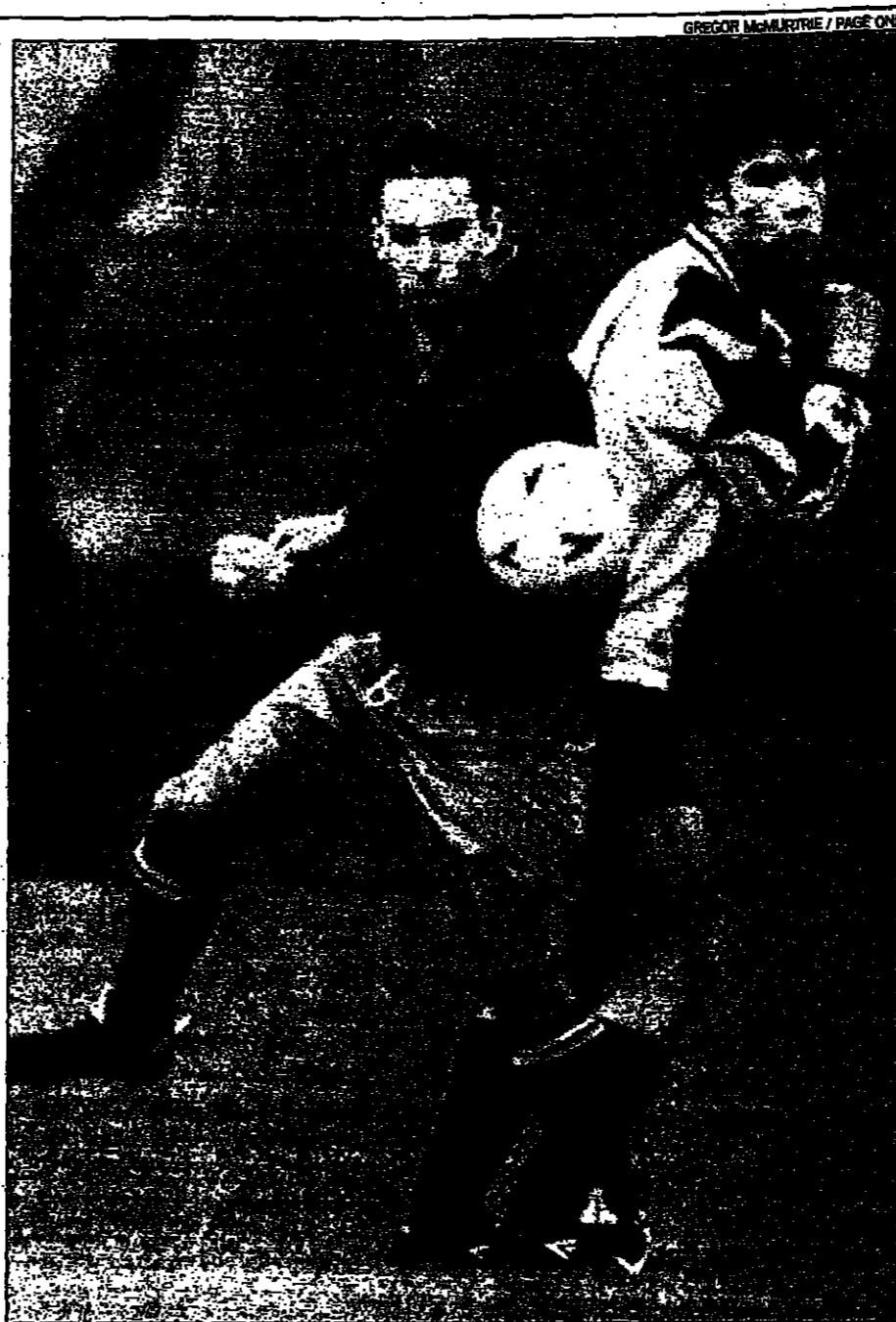
Tom Newcombe. Most of Repton's pupils, it seemed, had gathered in front of the 12th-century Old Priory to see if their first XI could reach the final of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup, the competition for independent schools that they have never won. In the final, Wolverhampton will meet either Ardington or Hampton GS, whose semi-final was postponed yesterday.

In sporting terms, Repton is famous, among other things, for educating C. B. Fry and the fact that Derby County will be sending boys there on scholarships from next September. The advantage Wolverhampton have, is in playing football as a main sport in both of the winter terms.

Six of Repton's team were involved in a national indoor hockey competition last weekend. Jean-Paul Gordon, who fills the role of centre forward in both sports, scored the first goal after a direct run by Alkpofure and, like his goalkeeper, missed a penalty in the shoot-out. Twice they took the lead against opponents who had to make four positional changes.

Wolverhampton, who likewise have not won this cup, began with a 3-1-2 formation, but were sufficiently organised to be able to toy with that. Football has been an increasingly popular sport in the independent sector and such sophistication is a tribute to the level of coaching found within it.

Wolverhampton equalised through a neat chip by Baker and took the lead after a lant-



Gordon, left, the Repton striker, who is also a useful hockey player, tussles with his Wolverhampton marker, Baker, in the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup semi-final.

guid run and low cross by Bolton at the far post. A header by Dan Rippon, led to extra time. He scored again, when Lancaster let the ball slip under his body.

Baker then equalised for Wolverhampton in the second half of extra time. It was a pity that a skilful, clean match had to be decided on a shoot-out, for the boys involved will remember any

lapses for the rest of their lives. But there should be no stopping Repton in this or any other competition when Derby County's trainees arrive in the autumn.

REPORT (4-2-2): Newcombe — J. Gordon, O. Ford, R. Alcock — M. Jones, A. Knapton (sub: D. Rippon, Finn), D. Baker, J. Newcombe (sub: S. Fletcher, S. Preston); S. Fletcher (4-2-2): J. Gordon, O. Ford, R. Alcock — M. Jones, A. Knapton (sub: D. Rippon, Finn), D. Baker, J. Newcombe (sub: S. Fletcher, S. Preston).

WOLVERHAMPTON GS (3-1-2): C. Lewis — A. Baker, J. Collins, S. Drury — S. Fletcher (sub: S. Fletcher, S. Fletcher), J. Baker, A. Turner.

Referee: P. Jones.

Reid must buy to close class divide

By GEORGE CAULKIN

BARELY had the burger wrappers been tidied away, the bars replenished and the pitch coaxed back into verdant life than, for the second time inside 24 hours, the turnstiles at the Stadium of Light were clicking once again last night. Another big crowd, more FA Carling Premiership opposition, further proof that Sunderland are getting things appreciably right.

A day after the first team's 2-1 home defeat by Leicester City in the first leg of the Worthington Cup semi-final, a record attendance in excess of 20,000 was anticipated for the Pontins League Premier Division match with Liverpool, drawn by the prospect of free entry, or perhaps the chance to glimpse players such as Steve McManaman or Rigobert Song. Yet for all the slick public relations, the glowing

new ground, the community work and the considerable success on the field, there is little sense of smug contentment. When Bob Murray, the Sunderland chairman, says: "The only thing that we're confident of at this stage is not getting relegated," the mentality is clear: seeing does not necessarily equate with believing.

For the club have been here before — each year a new dawn that never broke — most recently in 1996, when Sunderland became champions of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division and Leicester sneaked into the play-offs and joined Peter Reid's team in promotion. It was then their paths separated and it is this that causes most grievance on Wearside.

Martin O'Neill's side have fashioned security and more from limited resources, yet on Tuesday the gap in class was yawning. That Gavin McCann's riposte to two goals from Tony Cottee was more than a touch fortunate seemed appropriate.

Reid has the financial muscle to close it, but whether he will choose to spend is far from certain. "I won't be rushed into buying," is his familiar refrain.

It is ten months ago that Middlesbrough, then second in the Nationwide League first division, spent £3.45 million on Paul Gascoigne. His three-year contract and £15 million salary seemed a risk, but it delivered a message of intent to rival teams. Sunderland have been sending out similar bulletins all season; perhaps a final warning is now appropriate.

Dunn S4.

It was also a satisfying day for Stuart Bingham, the 1996 world amateur champion from Basildon, and Patrick Wallace, one of a handful of university graduates in professional snooker by ensuring debut appearances in the last 16.

Bingham edged Gerard Greene 5-4 on a resounding black.

Wallace, the surprise first-round conqueror of Ken Doherty, highlighted his 5-1 win over Tony Chappell with contributions of 52, 62 and 109.

IN BRIEF

Yorkshire showdown in prospect

■ BOXING: Naseem Hamed is ready to put his world title at stake against another Yorkshire-based boxer, Paul Ingle, of Scarborough.

The World Boxing Organisation featherweight showdown has been pencilled in for Manchester's MEN Arena on April 10.

Ingle rejected a bout with Hamed earlier this month but said an improved offer of more than £300,000 was "too good to refuse". His promoter, Frank Malone, confirmed yesterday that a deal was all but concluded.

■ MOTOR RACING: The scrabble for seats is still not over in Formula One with just six weeks to go before the first grand prix of the season. Mika Salo emerged yesterday as the biggest potential loser, with Arrows considering ditching the Finn for their own way. Toranosuke Takagi and Pedro de la Rosa could both bring substantial sponsorship to the team, which earlier this month was saved by a £70 million cash injection by a consortium led by a Nigerian prince, Malik Ado Ibrahim.

■ BOWLS: David Courley, who lost to Alex Marshall in the final of the world indoor singles championship last week, has replaced Finch Duff at the top of the World Bowls Tour ranking list.

While Marshall gains a place in the top 16 for the first time, Finch drops to fourth place, behind John Price and Andy Thomson. Tony Allcock, Richard Corsie and Ian Schuback have slipped out of the leading group.

FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

WORLD TOUR RANKINGS: 1. D. Gough (GBR) 2. P. Allcock (GBR) 3. J. Price (GBR) 4. S. Rippon (GBR) 5. A. Marshall (GBR) 6. D. Marshall (GBR) 7. A. Corsie (GBR) 8. J. Gordon (GBR) 9. D. Schuback (GBR) 10. S. Fletcher (GBR) 11. E. Jones (GBR) 12. D. Baker (GBR) 13. J. Newcombe (GBR) 14. C. Lewis (GBR) 15. R. Alcock (GBR) 16. S. Fletcher (GBR) 17. D. Rippon (GBR) 18. J. Gordon (GBR) 19. S. Drury (GBR) 20. D. Baker (GBR) 21. J. Newcombe (GBR) 22. C. Lewis (GBR) 23. D. Rippon (GBR) 24. S. Fletcher (GBR) 25. J. Gordon (GBR) 26. R. Alcock (GBR) 27. D. Baker (GBR) 28. J. Newcombe (GBR) 29. C. Lewis (GBR) 30. D. Rippon (GBR) 31. S. Fletcher (GBR) 32. J. Gordon (GBR) 33. R. Alcock (GBR) 34. D. Baker (GBR) 35. C. Lewis (GBR) 36. J. Newcombe (GBR) 37. D. Rippon (GBR) 38. S. Fletcher (GBR) 39. J. Gordon (GBR) 40. R. Alcock (GBR) 41. D. Baker (GBR) 42. J. Newcombe (GBR) 43. C. Lewis (GBR) 44. D. Rippon (GBR) 45. S. Fletcher (GBR) 46. J. Gordon (GBR) 47. R. Alcock (GBR) 48. D. Baker (GBR) 49. J. Newcombe (GBR) 50. C. Lewis (GBR) 51. D. Rippon (GBR) 52. S. Fletcher (GBR) 53. J. Gordon (GBR) 54. R. Alcock (GBR) 55. D. Baker (GBR) 56. J. Newcombe (GBR) 57. C. Lewis (GBR) 58. D. Rippon (GBR) 59. S. Fletcher (GBR) 60. J. Gordon (GBR) 61. R. Alcock (GBR) 62. D. Baker (GBR) 63. J. Newcombe (GBR) 64. C. Lewis (GBR) 65. D. Rippon (GBR) 66. S. Fletcher (GBR) 67. J. Gordon (GBR) 68. R. Alcock (GBR) 69. D. Baker (GBR) 70. J. Newcombe (GBR) 71. C. Lewis (GBR) 72. D. Rippon (GBR) 73. S. Fletcher (GBR) 74. J. Gordon (GBR) 75. R. Alcock (GBR) 76. D. Baker (GBR) 77. J. Newcombe (GBR) 78. C. Lewis (GBR) 79. D. Rippon (GBR) 80. S. Fletcher (GBR) 81. J. Gordon (GBR) 82. R. Alcock (GBR) 83. D. Baker (GBR) 84. J. Newcombe (GBR) 85. C. Lewis (GBR) 86. D. Rippon (GBR) 87. S. Fletcher (GBR) 88. J. Gordon (GBR) 89. R. Alcock (GBR) 90. D. Baker (GBR) 91. J. Newcombe (GBR) 92. C. Lewis (GBR) 93. D. Rippon (GBR) 94. S. Fletcher (GBR) 95. J. Gordon (GBR) 96. R. Alcock (GBR) 97. D. Baker (GBR) 98. J. Newcombe (GBR) 99. C. Lewis (GBR) 100. D. Rippon (GBR) 101. S. Fletcher (GBR) 102. J. Gordon (GBR) 103. R. Alcock (GBR) 104. D. Baker (GBR) 105. J. Newcombe (GBR) 106. C. Lewis (GBR) 107. D. Rippon (GBR) 108. S. Fletcher (GBR) 109. J. Gordon (GBR) 110. R. Alcock (GBR) 111. D. Baker (GBR) 112. J. Newcombe (GBR) 113. C. Lewis (GBR) 114. D. Rippon (GBR) 115. S. Fletcher (GBR) 116. J. Gordon (GBR) 117. R. Alcock (GBR) 118. D. Baker (GBR) 119. J. Newcombe (GBR) 120. C. Lewis (GBR) 121. D. Rippon (GBR) 122. S. Fletcher (GBR) 123. J. Gordon (GBR) 124. R. Alcock (GBR) 125. D. Baker (GBR) 126. J. Newcombe (GBR) 127. C. Lewis (GBR) 128. D. Rippon (GBR) 129. S. Fletcher (GBR) 130. J. Gordon (GBR) 131. R. Alcock (GBR) 132. D. Baker (GBR) 133. J. Newcombe (GBR) 134. C. Lewis (GBR) 135. D. Rippon (GBR) 136. S. Fletcher (GBR) 137. J. Gordon (GBR) 138. R. Alcock (GBR) 139. D. Baker (GBR) 140. J. Newcombe (GBR) 141. C. Lewis (GBR) 142. D. Rippon (GBR) 143. S. Fletcher (GBR) 144. J. Gordon (GBR) 145. R. Alcock (GBR) 146. D. Baker (GBR) 1

CRICKET

Test rivals stay calm on eve of hostilities

Richard Hobson in Madras hopes that India and Pakistan can combine to produce a positive series

Sumil Gavaskar once suggested that every Indian possessed a vocabulary of at least four words: "You must beat Pakistan." The anecdote will strike a chord with Wasim Akram. On the flight from Lahore to Delhi last week, a stewardess whispered to the Pakistan captain: "Win it for our people."

The difference between victory and defeat is the contrast between decimation and dislocation. In the past, the fear of failure has generated some of the dullest cricket in the history of the game. If Wasim and Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, are prepared to compromise that fear of pursuit of glory, the three-Test series that begins at the Chidambaram Stadium today will be memorable for more than historic reasons.

A record of 15 draws in the past 16 meetings tells a story of

slow, stultifying pitches and negativistic tactics. However, as Raj Singh, the president of the Board of Cricket Control for India, said yesterday, the growth of limited-overs cricket since the last meeting, in 1989-90, has nurtured an instinct to attack. With Azharuddin suggesting that the pitch will turn sharply, there is reason to feel optimistic about a positive outcome.

The form of both countries is poor. Pakistan, besmirched by allegations of match-fixing and riddled with internal divisions, have lost unsurprisingly to Australia and embarrassingly to Zimbabwe. On home soil, India returned recently from defeat against New Zealand. Yet Pakistan are a better touring team and India have not lost a home series since 1997.

Furthermore, it is easy to think that this series, the first between the countries in India

for 12 years, could not have arrived at a better time for Pakistan. The contempt held by certain players towards each other plays alongside the inherent determination to crush India.

Tight security, which includes snipers overlooking their base at the Taj Coromandel Hotel, has contributed towards fostering unity. Yesterday, in a noble public relations exercise, players visited a hospital for sick children.

"The security was unsettling at the beginning, but the guards have been flexible," Wasim said. "We spent two weeks in a training camp in Karachi after playing Zimbabwe and the fact that this is such an important series has glued the players together. My job is to make sure they take pride in themselves and fight to their best for the people back home. People think the Ashes series is the most important, but this is something dif-

ferent again. If you win you are right up there. If you lose, the people do not want to know you."

Wasim is beginning a fourth stint as captain and Cammie Smith, the former West Indies batsman who is the match referee for the series, remarked that the experience of Wasim and Azharuddin will help to retain a degree of relative calm in a highly charged atmos-

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Tendulkar takes part in India's practice session yesterday

England's enigma finds his role

Michael Henderson says Graeme Hick is now indispensable in the one-day side

Sometimes it just clicks. Graeme Hick has been playing international cricket since the day in May 1991 that he qualified as English, and for much of the last eight years he has been tossed about so mercilessly on a sea of heightened expectation that he despaired of ever getting dry land.

Six times he has been picked for the Test team. Six times he has been dropped. He has made 105 first-class hundreds, and is not trusted to bat in his familiar position of No 3. Hopes have been raised, dashed, raised once more, and seemed to evaporate in a pool of utter misery when he made a century against the Sri Lankans at the Oval last August and, six days later, was excluded from the tour party for Australia.

Test success for Hick is still a long way off but in one-day cricket he is making himself indispensable. Hick is having a terrific time in the triangular tournament with Australia and Sri Lanka, having made three hundreds in the last four matches after a poor start in Brisbane. Suddenly there is colour in his cheeks again.



Cork talks planned

DERBYSHIRE have withdrawn the deadline they set Dominic Cork, left, for informing them whether he intended to remain as their captain. Trevor Bowering, who was elected chairman of the club yesterday after an acrimonious annual meeting, is intent on preventing an extraordinary general meeting taking place.

Cork had been given until noon yesterday to inform the club of his intentions, but refused to put anything in writing. He reiterated that he will not continue unless he is given the authority he feels he is due as captain. Bowering said he had asked Les Elliott, who has withdrawn his resignation from the committee, to hold talks with Cork.



Hick in scintillating form

bly finer. Shane Warne needed little prompting to describe the one of Australia Day as "superb".

Hick takes a philosophical view of it all, partly because he doesn't know how the land lies with regard to a Test place. Balanced against his fine attacking batting in the second innings at Perth, and the runs he made at Melbourne were those joint failures at Adelaide, the crucial third Test that England surrendered with an abysmal display of baton.

"It has come together pretty well over the past few days," he said. "I have made a bit more of an effort to play myself in. In the past I have made good runs in one-day cricket and then not made the Test side, for some reason. At the moment I am feeling confident in both forms of the game."

The way he carried Muralitharan into the trees beyond the mid-wicket boundary at Adelaide justified to his confidence that he will not continue unless he is given the sort that makes real demands on players, but games have

still to be won. Perhaps David Lloyd, the England coach, should get hold of Hick sometime in the next month and put it to him straight.

"Look here, Hick. You'll never have a better chance of making a name for yourself. You haven't achieved all that you might have, or all that you want, but forget about that. Go out and smash the ball to all parts, as hard and as often as you can. If it doesn't come off, no matter. Nobody will hold you to account."

That would be true. If England are to win the World Cup, then Hick and Gough are the men who can do most to bring it off.

One man is cocksure, full of swagger and in the form of his life. The other shows a less certain face to the world, having seen how cruelly it can deceive the trusting. But he's changing. The evidence is there for all to see.

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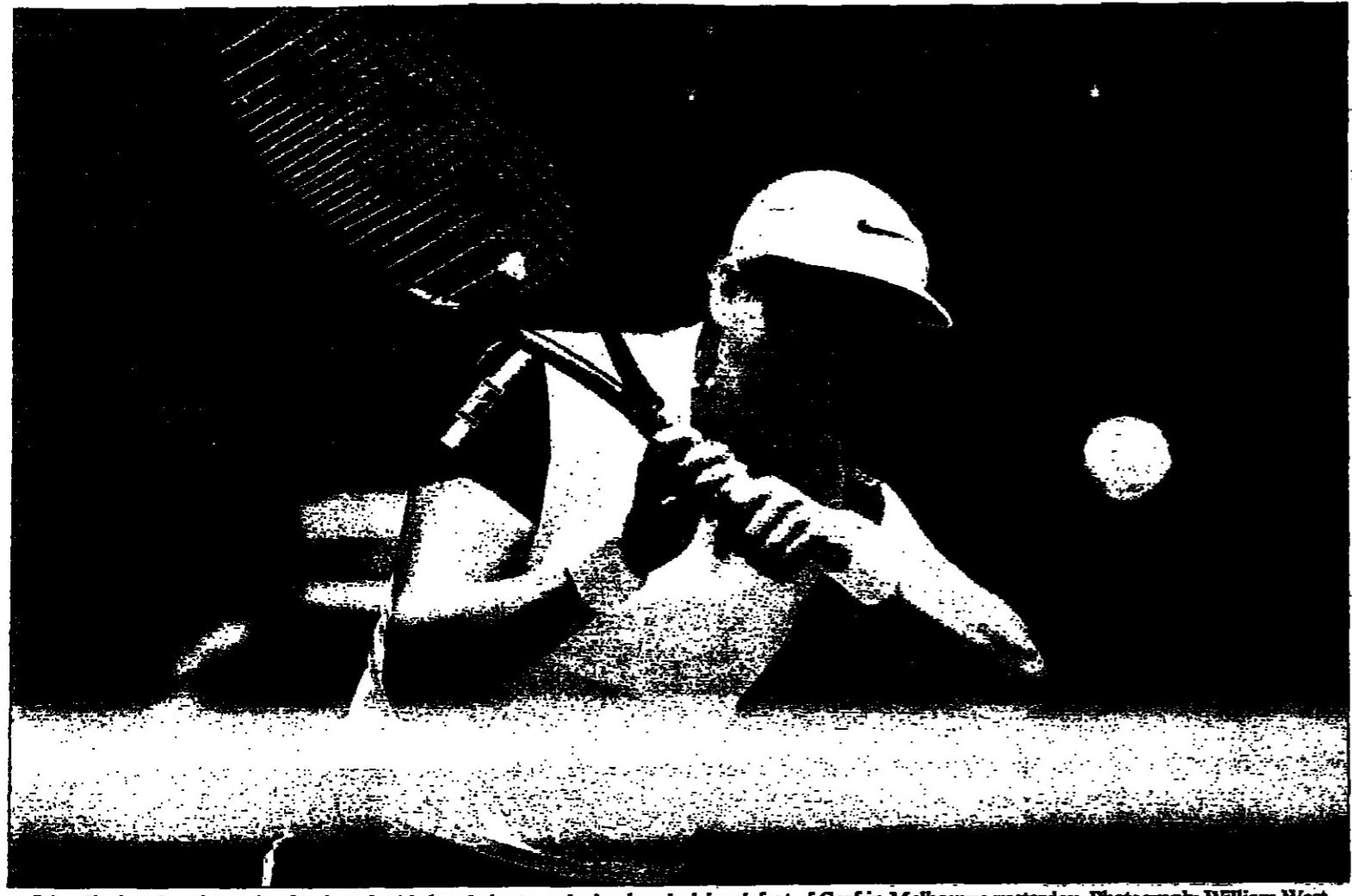
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TENNIS: OLD RIVAL OVERWHELMED IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN AMID BARE MINIMUM OF ETIQUETTE

Seles vents strong feelings



Seles displays her determination in a double-handed return during her decisive defeat of Graf in Melbourne yesterday. Photograph: William West

YOU could watch Monica Seles every day for a month and still be intrigued by this extraordinary woman, with her extraordinary past, whose like will never again walk the world's courts.

Seles positively crushed Steffi Graf in the Australian Open here yesterday. She defeated so completely that Graf could not remember the like of it. From 4-2 up in the first set, Graf lost 11 of the next 13 games — including eight in a row — as Seles pounded down her metronomic groundstrokes from the strings of her oversized racket. She triumphed 7-5, 6-1 in 73 minutes.

This final was expected from the moment the draw was cast here two weeks ago. Graf against Seles, might against power, grace against force. Graf established an early lead, after which Seles hunted her down. Point by point, shot by shot, Seles remorselessly closed down on Graf. She ultimately drew level, reached out a paw and metaphorically severed her prey in half.

"I played OK until 4-3, but then I totally lost my momentum," Graf, still disoriented by the experience, reflected some 20 minutes after the match. "I couldn't put a ball in the court."

The two had duelled too many times for Graf to be surprised by Seles's onslaught.

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

RESULTS**WOMEN**

SINGLES: Quarter-final: Y. Kafelnikov (Russ) bt T. Marin (US) 6-2, 7-6, 6-2; T. Haas (Ger) bt S. Seles (US) 7-5, 7-6, 6-3.

DOUBLES: Quarter-final: E. Ferrero (SA) and R. Leconte (US) 6-2, 6-2; S. Speroni (Switzerland) and P. Rister (Aus) w/o G. Kuerten (Br) and N. Lapentti (Es).

RESULTS

CHARTER-FINALS: P. Abano (Arg) and M. Bogdanovic (Ser) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; and S. Hingis (USA) and A. Meusseuw (Fr) 6-2, 6-3. Semifinal: M. Hingis (Switz) and A. Kournikova (Russ) bt L. Raymond (US) and R. Stubbs (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

BOYS

SINGLES: Second round: D. Maricic (Aus) and M. Nitton (GB) 6-4, 6-4.

GIrls

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Seizing every opportunity to enjoy herself

Some people are born misanthropes; some achieve misanthropy; and some have misanthropy thrust upon them. Much of the joy of *Inside Story* (BBC1), about a pair of balliffs in Leeds, was trying to guess into which of these three categories Corinne Ladriselle fell. Misanthropy seems to be a common feature of occupations such as traffic wardens, bailiffs, the people who work in customer relations departments of utility companies. But it's always intriguing to try to work out whether it's dealing with angry members of the public that eventually turns traffic wardens and bailiffs into people always braced for a fight; or whether, like Robert Davall in *Apocalypse Now*, they have always loved the smell of napalm first thing in the morning; and so chose to go into these particular professions because they provide the greatest scope for upsetting their fellow human beings without

having to do anything that might be actually illegal.

If Corinne learnt many important things at her mother's knee, "silence is golden" was not one of them. "I must admit that when we are actually balliffing," she admitted superfluously, "I'm doing the talking." We're only a few minutes into Richard Taylor and Ian Sturtard's entertaining film, but already we're no more needed to be told this than we would need Al Gore to tell us that he has less charisma than dandruff. Corinne never stops talking. Mark Stebbings, the fellow-balliff with whom she tours Leeds collecting cash or cars or dining tables to settle unpaid council tax bills, is also her partner and father of their young daughter. He gets in his words when Corinne breathes in, like the triangle player in an orchestra patiently waiting for his moment: "A lot of people take an instant dislike to me," Corinne confessed.

"And I don't know why, because I'm only out there doing my job." Maybe, Corinne, it's because you are as cheery as a crocodile with toothache. "I don't go into premises and say, 'Good morning,'" she boasts, "because it's not going to be a good morning."

Certainly not if Corinne has anything to do with it. It's not long before her guard slips and she settles the question that's been nagging us: "It's not a very nice thing to say that I enjoy being a balliff, but unfortunately I do. I meet a lot of arrogant people, who think they're above the law and they think that nobody can do anything to them, probably because they're in a good financial position and they'll pay when they're ready. And the enjoyment there is that we get them to pay or we remove the goods. In other words we knock them down a peg or two." It could have been Ray from *The*

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Clampers talking about motorists. Still, I'd pay to hear Corinne's view of Elizabeth Emanuel, the woman who — with her former husband — designed the then Diana Spencer's wedding dress. Having long since fallen on hard times, Emanuel sought out a backer. The backer she found was Shami Ahmed, the owner of the Joe Bloggs jeans company. What was so gripping about Nick Mirsky's

wonderful film for *Blood on the Carpet* (BBC2) about their shotgun marriage and morning-after divorce was that it turned into a corporate homage to *Blind Date*.

Having outlined the basic gulf in their approaches to business (Liz expected Shami to fund air fares and fancy hotels so that she could jost with royals and celebrities), Shami said would make financial sense if it were a proven way of attracting custom — which it clearly wasn't, or else why had her company founderered? Mirsky showed us how it all unravelled the minute Liz flew to New York for what Shami had deemed an unnecessary trip. Shami was on the next plane, seeking an explanation. For Liz, who was already "that stressed out" by Shami's decision to relocate her cutting room to — yikes! — Wembley, that was the final straw. Mirsky then compiled a duel of film clips, *Blind Date*-style, with Liz and Shami each giving

their version of the fateful phone call which Shami, from another room in the same hotel, made to Emanuel.

He just got so hostile with me." She was shouting at me. "He was insulting me. "He was a designer. He brushed me as a designer. You're talking about a man who thinks the biggest thing ever is to design diamond-encrusted jeans and he thinks that's classy! How could he possibly understand the stuff I was doing?" "I didn't understand how to lose money, no. That's true." "The man is a dictator." "You must remember not to go on an ego trip." "He's got a thing about being in control." "I'd really never met anybody that couldn't see reason like that." "Ooh, and then what happened, chuck asked the spirit of Cilia.

"She put the phone down." "He put the phone down on me." "No. No. She put the phone down."

It only lacked Cilia telling us all, did they? And it looked so promising, what with Liz's loovly, loovly gowns and Shami's gorgeous business brain. Never mind, chucks. I'm sure you'll both find the right partner soon." If only *Newstraight* had used this technique when Peter Mandelson and Charlie Whelan were feuding about who played what part in their respective downfalls.

Mersey Blues (BBC2) has at last reached that scene we kept seeing in the trailers for the series, where a man is arrested by police for murder and he replies: "Meerdagh?" It was like that moment in a concert when the band finally plays the tune everybody's been waiting for. With a murder investigation hanging in mid-air, a real-life prime suspect in the cells, and a bent copper still to be exposed, this series has become more gripping than *Burt Reynolds's toupee glue*.

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (6916)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (61751)	
9.00 Kithy (1) (281645)	
9.45 The Vanessa Show (1) (561451)	
10.55 News... Regional News; Weather (1) (7580409)	
11.00 Real News (7500888)	
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (7500845)	
11.55 News... Regional News (1) (7580041)	
12.00pm Call My Bluff (38312)	
12.30 Wipeout (302888)	
12.55 The Weather Show (1) (55834138)	
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (1) (91138)	
1.30 Regional News; Weather (8274645)	
1.40 Neighbours (1) (85954461)	
2.05 Inside (1) (7247935)	
2.25 Body Spies (7792206)	
3.25 Children's BBC; Playdays (2928498)	
3.45 The All New Poppy Show (9545333); 4.05 Puppets (652694); 4.20 Home Farm Twins (6925167); 4.35 Short Change (1206577)	
5.00 Newsround (5043206) 5.10 Grange Hill (6176461)	
5.33 Rewind (1) (858857)	
5.35 Neighbours (1) (7288312)	
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (913)	
6.30 Regional News Magazine (683)	
7.00 Watchdog (1) (9480)	

BBC2	
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Open Door (2100415) 8.00 Teletubbies (2095370); 7.55 Blue Peter (2289254)	
8.20 Tex-Mex (1422723); 8.40 Police Dot Shorts (8711515); 8.50 Friday Fiddle Bird (8711929); 9.00 Daytime On Two: Job Bank (7537770); 9.10 Believable (6053385); 9.20 Watch (8288876) 9.45 Come Outside (8814022); 10.00 Children's BBC; Teletubbies (56577)	
10.30 Daytime On Two: Storytime (5482026); 10.45 The Experimenter (378041); 11.05 Space Ark (9251751); 11.15 Zog! Zog! (1032255); 11.35 Lifescho (5277935); 12.00pm Job Bank (9588886); 12.10 English File (4549577)	
12.30 Working Lunch (81817)	
1.00 Children's BBC; Fiddley Foodie Bird (73245190)	
1.10 The Great Picture Chase (1) (82141854)	
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show (8975954)	
2.10 Sporting Greats (22789420)	
2.40 News (7) (8524393)	
2.45 Westminster (1) (3775442)	
3.25 News (1) (2560854)	
3.30 A Place for Annie (1993) A dedicated doctor cares for an HIV-positive baby, but faces emotional upheaval when the child's natural mother returns to claim her. Moving drama, with Sissy Spacek. Directed by John Gray (1) (86180)	
3.45 The Adventures of Dawdie (8897854)	
4.00 News (7) (8524393)	
4.20 The Worst Witch (7681867)	
5.10 A Country Practice Robert returns with his new bride (3850688)	
5.35 HTV News Headlines (1) (2568596)	
5.40 News (7) (2565409)	
5.45 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2548732) 3.35 The Adventures of Dawdie (8897854); 3.45 The Sylphette and Tweety Mystery (8077190); 4.15 Hey Arnold! (6037404); 4.40 The Worst Witch (7681867)	
5.50 A Country Practice Robert returns with his new bride (3850688)	
5.55 CITV: Crimestoppers (840206)	
5.56 10am Early Evening News; Weather (1) (873393)	
6.00 Home and Away Justine breaks Tom's heart (1) (108732)	
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (470596)	
6.30 WALES: Wales Tonight (7) (731288)	
6.30 The West Tonight (1) (751)	
7.00 Emmerdale: Tom has a change of fortune (1) (1848)	
7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Judy Finnigan and the team investigate more consumer complaints (935).	
7.30 WALES: Forgotten Treasures (835)	
8.00 The Bill Garfield jumps at the chance of taking part in an operation which will mean spending a weekend at the races (1) (5515)	
8.00 The Travel Show (1) (8770)	



Melanie (Tamzin Outhwaite) finds romance in the square (7.30pm)

ITV WEST	
5.30am ITN Morning News (32206)	
6.00 GMTV (638676)	
9.25 Trisha (1) (310041)	
10.30 This Morning (1) (2470751)	
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (1) (693119)	
12.30 HTV Lunchtime News; Weather (1) (568684)	
1.00 Shortland Street Lulu has her first date with James (862206)	
1.30 Home and Away Justine breaks Tom's heart (1) (55935)	
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous anything-goes American talk show (1) (2471225)	
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (1) (820732)	
3.15 ITV News Headlines (1) (2568596)	
3.20 HTV News (7) (2565409)	
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The talkshow host and newspaper columnist (8.30pm)

ITV	
8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines: Top Gear presenter checks out the American F15 planes and goes drag-racing on snowmobiles (1) (2577)	
9.00 Meet the Ancestors A team of police officers and archaeologists unlock secrets of the past as they investigate the contents of a recently discovered Stone Age burial chamber in Orkney (1) (2041)	
9.30 Horizon: A look at the variety of theories about the end of the Universe, highlighting research which has led to a bizarre discovery — a previously unknown form of energy that could challenge the fundamental laws of physics (1) (951770)	
10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees (4/6) (188157)	
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (7) (300798)	
10.30 Newsnight (977139)	
11.15 Late Review (344618)	
11.55 Skating Forecast (215139)	
12.00am Dispatches (1) (50168)	
12.30 BBC Learning Zone (15168)	
12.30 BBC Learning Zone (15168)	

ITV	
9.00 The Knock An illegal immigrant found hiding in the luggage compartment of a coach exposes an Algerian heroin smuggling ring (4/6) (15757)	
9.30 News at Ten (7) (39408)	
10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (802415)	
10.40 Thursday Night Live (7366472)	
12.10pm WEST: Tales from the Darkside (5489165)	
12.10 WALES: We Can Work It Out (549165)	
12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (255900)	
1.25 T in the Park (1220907)	
2.20 Box Office America (5453368)	
2.50 Cybernet (7321252)	
3.20 Murder, She Wrote (4159707)	
4.10 Potty About Pets (9359982)	
4.35 Coach (3403884)	
4.55 ITV Nighthascreen (1276417)	

ITV	
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Open Door (2100415) 8.00 Teletubbies (2095370); 7.55 Blue Peter (2289254)	
8.20 McLaren -	

